

Hard Times

Quiet US town center stage for Sandusky faceoff

The Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte, Pa., is shown Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, charged with sexually abusing boys, is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing at the courthouse Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

GENARO C. ARMAS
MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press
BELLEFONTE, Pennsylvania (AP) — A sleepy small town better known for fishing than courtroom drama takes center stage Tuesday for a face-to-face encounter between a disgraced Penn State coach and the young men who say he sexually assaulted them as children in showers and campus locker rooms. Jerry Sandusky, a former assistant football coach at Penn State, will confront at least six accusers who claim that he violated their innocence and preyed on their weakness, using a charity that was inspired by a biblical parable. Sandusky, 67, is charged with more than 50 counts of child sex-abuse involving

10 boys he met through the children's charity he founded. A judge will decide if prosecutors have enough evidence to send the case to a trial. Last month Sandusky told NBC's Bob Costas and The New York Times that his relationship to the boys who said he abused them was like that of an extended family. Sandusky characterized his experiences with the children as "precious times" and said the physical aspect of the relationships "just happened that way" and didn't involve abuse. Sandusky retired as Penn State's longtime defensive coordinator in 1999, a year after the first known abuse allegation reached police. Penn State fired legendary football coach Joe Paterno last month, saying he didn't

do enough to investigate allegations against Sandusky. Paterno won more games than any other coach in major college football history. The defense often waives preliminary hearings, although it can also use the opportunity to cross-examine witnesses and explore their credibility. But Sandusky's lawyer, Joe Amendola, said Monday his client welcomes the hearing. "We plan to proceed with Jerry's hearing, and Jerry is looking forward to the opportunity to face his accusers," Amendola said. He said there had been no plea negotiations before the hearing. He would only say, "Maybe," when asked if he would call Sandusky to testify. The drama will unfold in a

quiet, central Pennsylvania town of just over 6,000 with Victorian homes and fly fishermen, in a courthouse framed by 26-foot (8-meter) columns built in the 1830s. Lawyers, probation officers and clerks went about their business on Monday while an official numbered spots on the sidewalk outside court for network news vans. Barricades were piled neatly on the courthouse lawn, while lighting equipment was stored behind the veterans' memorial nearby. A lawyer for one of the teenagers scheduled to testify bristled at Sandusky's description of the encounters as child play, or "horsing around." "My client said, 'There's nothing fun about what happened with me,'" Slade McLaughlin said last week,

adding that he believes the Penn State scandal has unleashed "a watershed moment" in the understanding of child sexual abuse. At least six of the accusers are expected to testify at the hearing, which could last two days. In 1998 a mother told investigators Sandusky had showered with her son during a visit to the Penn State football facilities. Accusations surfaced again in 2002, when graduate assistant Michael McQueary reported another alleged incident of abuse to Paterno and other university officials. The grand jury probe began only in 2009, after a teen complained that Sandusky, then a volunteer coach at his high school, had abused him. □

Record exec dies after Hollywood street rampage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Music executive John Atterberry died Monday after being shot by a rampaging gunman in the heart of Hollywood, a hospital spokeswoman said.

John Atterberry, who had worked with the Spice Girls, Jessica Simpson and others, died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center shortly before 5 p.m. Monday, spokeswoman Simi Singer said.

The 40-year-old executive was shot in the face and upper body as he drove his Mercedes-Benz during Friday's random attack.

Atterberry was the only seriously injured victim of 26-year-old Tyler Brehm, who police say fired nearly 20 bullets in the air and at cars as he screamed that he wanted to die. He was killed by police minutes later.

Brehm's ex-girlfriend has said she and Brehm had



This image provided by Gregory Bojorquez shows Los Angeles Police officers advancing on a wounded gunman Friday Dec. 9, 2011 at sunset and Vine streets in Los Angeles. Police say the 26-year-old man walked down the middle of a street in Hollywood, firing on passing cars with no clear target until police shot and killed him. Music executive John Atterberry died Monday after being shot by the rampaging gunman in the heart of Hollywood, a hospital spokeswoman said.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bojorquez)

recently broken up. But police said they're still looking for a motive for the attack. Brehm walked down the middle of Sunset Boule-

vard, firing on motorists with no clear target and injuring three of them before two police officers who just happened to be in the

area — an off-duty motorcycle officer working movie set security and a detective — shot and killed him, authorities said.

In amateur video taken at the shooting scene, the gunman appeared to have short hair and wore jeans and a white tank top. He paced back and forth near the busy intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Vine Street, firing from a .40-caliber handgun, police said.

The officers ordered the suspect to stop and drop his weapon. He was shot when he pointed his weapon at the officers, police said. Atterberry had been a vice president of Death Row Records, the label that produced albums for many of the most prominent names in West Coast hip hop, including Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre and Tupac Shakur. Courtney Barnes, a publicist for Smokey Robinson and Ron Artest, told Billboard magazine that she was shocked to hear the news, saying Atterberry was "a really nice guy." □

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Campaign ailing, it's Romney to the rescue – Ann Romney

MICHAEL BARBARO

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DES MOINES, Iowa – Ann Romney switches off shrill TV coverage of the presidential race “all the time.” She is exasperated by the hyperpartisanship of the moment. As for the debates? “Listen,” she said in a rare interview here, “I don’t even want to go to the debates.”

But with her husband’s bid for the Republican presidential nomination suddenly endangered by Newt Gingrich, Ann Romney is being deployed with a growing sense of urgency to do what her husband has been unwilling or unable to this election season: offer voters a compelling, three-dimensional portrait of Mitt Romney.

As the Romney campaign has tried to regain ground, Ann Romney, 62, has appeared, over the past week, at four events in New Hampshire, Iowa and Washington, offering what she calls “the other side of Mitt that you never hear about.”

In the process, she is drawing attention to a potentially powerful asset in a race against the twice-divorced Gingrich, especially in conservative states like Iowa: the Romneys’ unblemished marriage of 42 years.

In a suburban living room here a few days ago, amid platters of chicken salad tarts and red-velvet cupcakes, Ann Romney brought a group of local

women to tears describing how her husband has stood by her throughout her battle with multiple sclerosis, which once left her debilitated and fatigued for months at a time. “He is there, he is steadfast, you can count on him,” Romney told the women. “He won’t abandon you in the hardest times.”

The message was not lost on the voters in the room. “It says a lot about his character,” said Connie Schmetz, who attended the event. “If he is not going to abandon his wife, he is not going to abandon his country.”

Romney insists that she is not comparing her husband’s personal life with that of Gingrich, who is now married to his third wife, Callista.

“I have fond feelings for both Newt and Callista,” Romney said. “And I am not going to make any judgment or any – I am never going to make any statement about that, on a personal level.”

Yet she conceded that her steady – and by all accounts, adoring – marriage could influence voters “if that matters to them,” adding: “We are just who we are. We present who we are.”

Advisers to Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, say privately that they believe one of Gingrich’s biggest vulnerabilities is his marital history. He has acknowledged having



Ann Romney addresses a group of women at a campaign event for her husband, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, in Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 9, 2011. With her husband’s bid suddenly endangered by Newt Gingrich, Romney is being deployed with a growing sense of urgency to create a three-dimensional portrait of her husband for voters.

(Eric Thayer/The New York Times)

had extramarital affairs, including with Callista, a chapter in his life that several Romney supporters said had colored their view of Gingrich.

“That’s the problem with Newt a little bit for me – infidelity,” said Ellen Thibodeau, 44, who showed up at a rally for Romney in Hudson, N.H., on Sunday.

“My husband and I take our commitment to each other very seriously.”

Ann Romney’s newly higher profile, those close to her said, is the natural extension of the private role she has long played as her hus-

band’s inseparable partner and essential touchstone. (Aides tell tales of Mitt Romney walking into a crowded room and seeming unsettled until he can locate his wife. “Where’s Ann?” he asks.)

Ann Romney, the daughter of a self-made businessman from Wales, began dating Mitt Romney during high school in Michigan, converted to Mormonism and married him at age 20. His need to have her present has even trumped her dislike for the presidential debates. During commercial breaks in one in Des Moines on Saturday, Mitt

Romney stepped down from the stage and walked into the audience to speak with his wife.

While she insists she is not involved in day-to-day operations of the campaign, she acknowledges heavily influencing Romney’s biggest political decisions – especially to run for president this year.

Romney, she said, “was the one who was reluctant, much more reluctant, this time.”

“He was just thinking with his head,” she recalled. “This is what is involved, this is the process. This could happen, that could happen.” □

Colorado City tries to outshine its bigger neighbor

KIRK JOHNSON

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AURORA, Colo. – Second Banana. Tonto to the scene-stealing Lone Ranger. Name the pejorative of disrespect or neglect and this sprawling city, forever in Denver's shadow as the gawky suburb that outgrew its britches, has probably endured it.

No matter that in raw population count, Aurora is the third-largest urban area in Colorado, with 325,000 people, and the 55th biggest city in the nation, according to the census. In a state where consciousness of cool is a finely honed art – from hippie-tinged Boulder to the snow-clad condo culture of the mountains – Aurora is widely dismissed as a desert, entirely devoid of culture, cachet and clout. "Aurora is the red-headed stepchild with freckles," said Lamonte Purham, a construction worker who has lived here since coming to Colorado from St. Louis 12 years ago. But powerful forces are now pushing Aurora to a new spot in the firmament, and challenging the hierarchy of power that for generations has long put Denver – the state's capital and largest city, to Aurora's west – at the center of everything.

Last week, the state's highest court approved a new political map that finally gave Aurora a congressional district, the 6th District, to anchor and call its own after 40 years of work by the city's elected officials through four cen-

sus counts and remapping exercises. For the first time, candidates will have to pay court here and kiss the ring. Previously, the city was carved up by two districts, which compounded the divisions of three counties that touch boundaries

within the city.

"We'll have a political base and be recognized as a political base," the city's mayor, Stephen D. Hogan, said in an interview in his office. Economic ambition is also stirring.

A proposed huge new convention center and hotel complex near the Denver International Airport (Denver owns the airport, while Aurora was left, tellingly, with much of the empty land around it) is laying claim to some of what Denver has largely monopolized for decades in the business conference trade. Hogan said he thought Denver would be better for a little challenge from the project; Gaylord Entertainment announced plans in June to develop a resort and convention hotel in Aurora. "Competition is

good – it's going to make the downtown Denver Convention Center people work harder," Hogan said. "In the end, that will help the whole region."

Some Denver City Council members are not so sure. A study in October, commissioned by a downtown business group, said Denver would lose \$186 million over four years in reduced hotel, restaurant and convention traffic if the Gaylord Entertainment project went forward. "There is strong evidence that it would have a negative impact," said Robin Kniech, a Denver councilmember. "And we are not through our economic difficulties." The 2012 presidential election is also likely to find a focus here in Aurora, raising the city's profile as Democrats and Republicans again try to sort out the battle lines in a once securely Republican state that is no longer predictable. Arapahoe County, stretching east from here out onto the prairie, was, like most Denver suburbs, long safely Republican. But the county supported President Barack Obama in 2008 and then went for a Democrat again in 2010 in the governor's race, embracing Denver's mayor – now governor – John W. Hickenlooper. □



Above: Orion Stelzer, 18, jumps on a skateboard deck to ride down a hill in Aurora, Colo. The city hopes that being the center of a new Congressional district will help propel it from being just a Denver suburb. Right: Neighborhood youth gather while sledding in Aurora, Colo. The city hopes that being the center of a new Congressional district will help propel it from being just a Denver suburb. (Matthew Staver/The New York Times)



House, Senate negotiators agree on defense bill

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

House and Senate negotiators late Monday agreed to a sweeping \$662 billion defense bill that requires military custody for terrorism suspects linked to al-Qaida, including those captured within the U.S., and indefinite detention without trial for some suspects.

President Barack Obama and his national security team had appealed to lawmakers for last-minute changes to the bill to give the executive branch greater flexibility on whether to treat suspected terrorists as prisoners of war or criminals. Facing a White

House veto threat, leaders of the Armed Services Committees said they had added language on national security waivers and other slight revisions that they hoped would ensure administration support.

"We took significant steps to address the administration's concerns," Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, the top Democrat on the House panel, told reporters at a news conference. The White House had no immediate comment late Monday, and it was unclear whether it would hold firm on its veto threat. Overall, the bill would authorize \$662 billion for military personnel, weapons

systems, national security programs in the Energy Department, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Reflecting a period of austerity and a winding down of decade-old conflicts, the bill provides \$27 billion less than Obama requested and \$43 billion less than Congress gave the Pentagon for the year before.

The legislation would impose tough new sanctions on Iran, targeting foreign financial institutions that do business with the Central Bank in Tehran. Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Armed Services panel, said the negotiators made

some changes to address concerns of the Treasury Department, but the legislation is "96 percent" of what the Senate had unanimously backed.

The lawmakers said they hoped the House of Representatives and Senate could vote on the bill on Wednesday and send it to the president.

The issue of how to handle captured terrorist suspects has divided Obama's senior national security officials and Congress as well as Democrats and Republicans.

The administration insists that the military, law enforcement and intelligence officials need flexibil-

ity in prosecuting the fight against terrorism. Obama points to his administration's successes in eliminating Osama bin Laden and radical Islamic cleric Anwar al-Awlaki. Republicans counter that their efforts are necessary to respond to an evolving, post-Sept. 11 threat, and that Obama has failed to produce a consistent policy on handling suspected terrorists. The bill would require that the military take custody of a suspect deemed to be a member of al-Qaida or its affiliates and who is involved in plotting or committing attacks on the United States, with an exemption for U.S. citizens. □

Officer shot and killed in Brooklyn

ANDY NEWMAN

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NEW YORK — A veteran police officer died Monday after he was shot in the face at the scene of a home robbery in Brooklyn by a career criminal in what Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg called a “horrible, depraved criminal attack.” The officer, Peter Figoski, 47, of West Babylon, N.Y., was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center but died shortly after 7 a.m. One suspect, Lamont Pride, 27, of Brooklyn, has been arrested, and another is being sought.

The shooting happened around 2:20 a.m. near Queens. Bloomberg said Figoski, who had worked for the Police Department for 22 years, and his partner, Glenn Estrada, had interrupted a home invasion where “two perpetrators were attacking the person who lived in the downstairs apartment, apparently looking for money.”

The police had been summoned to the home by a 911 call of a possible burglary, according to the police. The owner of the building, who lives on the first and second floors, reported hearing what he thought was a break-in in a basement apartment, where a 25-year-old man lived, according to police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly.

Two officers who arrived at the home first found a robbery victim and a neighbor in the basement apartment, Kelly said. Pride and another suspect had tried to flee out the back of the home but were unable and hid in a side room as the two officers walked past them.

They then tried to leave through the front door, and the police said that is when Pride shot Figoski, who was at the bottom of the stairs that led from the street to the basement apartment.

The officer's partner, Estrada, was outside the home struggling with the second suspect. When he heard the gunshot, he let go of

the suspect and chased after Pride, capturing him several blocks away.

The police said they found a silver 9 mm Ruger semi-automatic pistol under a parked car near where Pride was arrested and said it appeared that one round had been fired. Pride has five prior arrests and was wanted in North Carolina on a warrant for aggravated assault, Kelly said.

The tenant of the basement apartment, according to Kelly, said he heard the two suspects pounding on his door and then



Members of the New York Police Department salute as the body of officer Peter Figoski, who was shot and killed Monday, is loaded into an ambulance outside the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, in New York, Dec. 12, 2011. Police arrested Lamont Pride, a career criminal, for the shooting and are seeking another suspect.

(Kirsten Luce/The New York Times)

going inside. The tenant said the two men claimed to be police officers and demanded money and jewelry. They knocked the tenant down, and one of the men hit him in the head with a gun.

The tenant said the assailants stole a cheap watch and \$700 in cash. The tenant was being treated at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center.

Figoski, a father of four daughters and the brother of a retired city police officer, was shot with an illegal semi-automatic weapon, Bloomberg said. □



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California Indian tribes show thousands of members the door

JAMES DAO

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COARSEGOLD, Calif. —

The six-page, single-spaced letter that Nancy Dondero and about 50 of her relatives received last month was generously salted with legal citations and footnotes. But its bottom line was brutally simple. "It is the decision by a majority of the Tribal Council," the letter said, "that you are hereby disenrolled."

And with that, Dondero's official membership in the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, the cultural identity card she had carried all her life, summarily ended.

"That's it," Dondero, 58, said. "We're tribeless."

Dondero and her clan have joined thousands of Indians in California who have been kicked out of their tribes in recent years for the crime of not being of the proper bloodline.

For centuries, American



Nikah Dondero, who turned down a master's degree program after being disenrolled from her tribe, in Mariposa, Calif. Clan rivalries and political squabbles are often triggers for disenrollment, but critics say the biggest factor has been casino gambling.

(Jennifer Emerling/The New York Times)

Indian tribes have banished people as punishment for serious offenses. But only in recent years, experts say, have they begun routinely disenrolling Indians deemed inauthen-

tic members of a group. And California, with dozens of tiny tribes that were decimated, scattered and then reformed, often out of ethnically mixed Indians, is the national hotbed of the

trend.

Clan rivalries and political squabbles are often triggers for disenrollment, but critics say one factor above all has driven the trend: casino gambling. The state has more than 60 Indian casinos that took in nearly \$7 billion last year, the most of any state, according to the Indian Gaming Commission.

For Indians who lose membership in a tribe, the financial impact can be huge. Some small tribes with casinos pay members monthly checks of \$15,000 or more out of gambling profits. Many provide housing allowances and college scholarships. Children who are disenrolled can lose access to tribal schools.

The money and the immense power it has conferred on tribes that had

endured grinding poverty for decades has enticed many tribal governments to consolidate control over their gambling enterprises by trimming membership rolls, critics and independent analysts say.

"Sometimes it is political vendettas or family feuds that have gotten out of hand," said David Wilkins, a Lumbee Indian and professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota who has studied disenrollment across the country. "But in California, it seems more often than not that gaming revenue is the precipitating factor."

At least 2,500 Indians have been disenrolled by at least two dozen California tribes in the past decade, according to estimates by Indian advocates and academics. □



The Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino in Coarsegold, Calif., Dec. 2, 2011. Clan rivalries and political squabbles are often triggers for disenrollment, but critics say the biggest factor has been casino gambling.

(Jennifer Emerling/The New York Times)

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Bill would block food stamps, jobless pay for millionaires

JENNIFER STEINHAUER
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WASHINGTON – It is an image many Americans would find rather upsetting: a recently laid-off millionaire, luxuriating next to the pool eating grapes bought with food stamps while waiting for an unemployment check to roll in. Under the Republican bill to extend a payroll tax holiday scheduled to be voted on in the House as early as Tuesday, those Americans with gross adjusted income more than \$1 million would no longer be eligible for food stamps or jobless

pay, producing \$20 million in savings to help pay for the tax cut for U.S. workers. The idea is also embraced by many Democrats, who had a similar version of the savings in a Senate bill to extend the payroll tax cut, as did a failed Republican Senate bill. Yet as it turns out, millionaires on food stamps are about as rare as petunias in January, even if you count a lottery winner in Michigan who managed to collect the benefit until chagrined officials in the state put an end to it. But the idea of ending un-

employment insurance for very high earners – which would be achieved essentially through taxing benefits up to 100 percent with a phase-in beginning for those with gross adjusted income more than \$750,000 – demonstrates an increasing desire among members of Congress to find some way to make sure the wealthiest Americans contribute more to reducing the deficit and paying for middle-class tax relief. Democrats have sought a surtax on income over \$1 million to pay for an extension of a tax break for the

middle class, which Republicans have rejected. Employees' share of the payroll tax, now 4.2 percent of wages, is scheduled to rise to 6.2 percent in January unless Congress takes action. The Senate is expected to come back with another version of its bill to extend the tax holiday this week, setting the stage for end-of-the-year wheeling and dealing over an issue that political leaders on both sides would like to proclaim victory on. While tycoons on food stamps might be hard to find, some millionaires do indeed pursue unemployment pay when they find themselves out of job. From 2005 to 2009, millionaires collected more than \$74 million in unemployment benefits, according to an estimate by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who has paired with Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., to push to end the practice. According to Coburn's office, the Internal Revenue Service reported that 2,362

millionaires collected a total of \$20,799,000 in unemployment benefits in 2009; 18 people with an adjusted gross income of \$10,000,000 or more received an average of \$12,333 in jobless benefits for a total of \$222,000. "Making Coloradans pay for unemployment insurance for millionaires is frankly irresponsible, especially at a time when money is tight and our debt is out of control," Udall said in an email. "Those dollars are better directed at helping working families get ahead, which we know will help fuel our economic recovery." Unemployment benefits are essentially an insurance program financed through the state and federal governments. States charge employers taxes to cover the first 26 weeks of unemployment benefits paid to those Americans who lose their jobs, with the federal government picking up the tab for extensions. □

Lowe's stands by decision to pull ads

MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite the growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing over the move. California Sen. Ted Lieu put a statement out on Sunday that he is considering calling for a boycott of Lowe's Cos., sparking criticism of the chain from leaders in the Muslim community. On social media web site Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition on signon.org in support of the TLC cable network show, "All-American Muslim." By Monday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.



Nawal Aoude, a pediatric respiratory therapist, left, and her husband Nader go for a walk in a scene from the TLC series, "All-American Muslim." The series features five families from Dearborn, Mich., a city near Detroit with one of the highest concentrations of Arab descendants in the country. A state senator from Southern California was considering calling for a boycott of Lowe's stores after the home improvement chain pulled its advertising from the reality show. Calling the retail giant's decision "un-American" and "naked religious bigotry," Sen. Ted Lie that he would also consider legislative action if Lowe's doesn't apologize to Muslims and reinstate its ads. The senator sent a letter outlining his complaints to Lowe's Chief Executive Officer Robert A. Niblock.

(AP Photo/Discovery, Adam Rose)

of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values." On Monday, Congressman Keith Ellison, who is Mus-

lim, released a statement condemning Lowe's Cos. for choosing "to uphold the beliefs of a fringe hate group and not the creed of The First Amendment," the part of the Constitution that protects freedom of religion. □

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Billionaire and ex-minister to oppose Putin elections

ELLEN BARRY

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

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MOSCOW

Amid a crescendo of complaints from Russians fed up with the country's tightly controlled political system, two prominent figures – a billionaire industrialist and the recently ousted finance minister – sought to fill a void in the opposition leadership on Monday.

The billionaire, Mikhail D. Prokhorov, who owns shares in a major gold mining company and an array of other ventures in Russia as well as the New Jersey Nets basketball franchise in the United States, said he would run for president, challenging Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

"I made a decision, probably the most serious decision in my life: I am going to the presidential election," Prokhorov said at a news conference. He has barely appeared in public since mid-September, when he was removed as the head of a pro-business party, Just Cause, after clashing with Kremlin political strategists.

"You may remember, the Kremlin removed me and my allies from Just Cause, and we were not allowed to do what we wanted," he said. "It is not in my nature to stop halfway. So for the last two and a half months we sat and worked, very calmly and quietly, and we created all the infrastructure to collect 2 million signatures," the number needed to get on the ballot as an independent candidate.

Meanwhile, the former finance minister, Alexei L. Kudrin, said he would form a new political party to push for liberal reforms. Like Prokhorov, Kudrin was expelled from the Kremlin's inner circle this fall, after disagreeing publicly with Putin's decision to trade jobs with President Dmitry Medvedev.

Kudrin told the business newspaper Vedomosti that the governing party, United Russia, had not delivered on its promises to protect business, fight corruption and reform the court system, and would be hard-pressed to respond to the complaints emerging from society.

"While they are gathering

their thoughts, they are losing time, which is very valuable right now," he said. "In parallel, there will arise a new liberal party, which will talk about these problems. This party will include people with experience, people from

business. The political picture will begin to gradually change." He said he was "absolutely certain" that the party would be created, though he offered no details. Their return to the political arena Monday posed the latest in a series

of challenges in recent days to the political status quo after years of stasis. Prokhorov said the events of the last week, including a huge rally on Saturday that drew tens of thousands of people in protest of parliamentary election

results, have left the governing powers no choice but to loosen their grip.

"I think that our society is waking up, and that part of the government which is not capable of establishing a dialogue with society, those authorities will have to go," he said. "The world is undergoing serious changes, a new kind of person has arisen as the result of the internet, and communication between the authorities and society will have a more honest character."

Many changes seem likely to flow from Dec. 4 parliamentary elections, which were condemned as fraudulent by international and local monitors, and protested by a vehement swath of middle-class Russians.

United Russia, which is led by Putin, finished first in the elections, with a shade under 50 percent of the vote, but still lost 77 seats.

Critics say those losses would have been far steeper were it not for voting irregularities, including structural impediments that make it difficult for opposition parties to compete – like the use of official government resources on behalf of United Russia – and also outright fraud like ballot-box stuffing. □



United Russia and pro-Kremlin supporters demonstrate in Manezh Square in Moscow, Dec. 12, 2011. Two prominent figures jumped into the presidential race Monday – industrialist billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov and former finance minister Alexei Kudrin – posing another challenge to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

(James Hill for The New York Times)

Libyan army clashes with militia in Tripoli

LIAM STACK

© 2011 New York Times

TRIPOLI, Libya

Efforts by Libya's transitional government to assert its authority over the capital were marred over the weekend, after members of a powerful rebel militia exchanged fire with soldiers in the fledgling army, leaving two people dead.

The clashes, which began when the Libyan National Army's highest ranking officer attempted to speed through a militia checkpoint, underscored the continued inability of Libyan authorities to organize – or control – the thousands of armed men who fought for months against Moammar Gadhafi in ad hoc units that have proved enduring.



Men chant slogans during a protest in Benghazi, Libya, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Arabic writing on the banner, right, reads "Libyan youth will protect the revolution, Feb. 15"

(AP Photo/ Ibrahim Alaguri)

The fighting does not bode well for a campaign by the National Transitional Council, Libya's post-war interim government, to persuade militias from other areas to

leave the capital by Dec. 20. The militiamen poured into Tripoli as it fell to rebel forces in August, and hundreds of heavily armed men have lingered, staking out territory and occasionally skirmishing with one another, despite officials' pleas to quit the city. From the earliest months of the Libyan uprising, rebel leaders have been trying to craft a unified army from the remains of Gadhafi's badly fractured military. In July, those efforts suffered a setback when the rebel force's chief of staff, Gen. Abdul Fattah Younes, was assassinated in Benghazi, amid suspicions over his loyalties. As a top security official under Gadhafi, Younes had been responsible for the detention and torture of

countless Libyan dissidents. In recent weeks, a rival of Younes', Gen. Khalifa Hiftar, has emerged as the army's most influential officer, though many of the militias still operating in the capital continue to answer to their own commanders.

Tensions over the conflicting claims of control came to a head on Saturday when Hiftar's convoy, on its way to the international airport, was attacked as he sped through a checkpoint manned by fighters from the western mountain town of Zintan, according to rebel leaders and an army spokesman.

Col. Mukhtar Farnana, head of the military council in western Libya, accused Hiftar of "trying to take the airport by force" and called for an investigation into the clashes. □



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Race to the bottom of the world, 100 years later

JOHN NOBLE WILFORD
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One hundred years ago, on Dec. 14, 1911, the Norwegian Roald Amundsen and four companions trudged through fog, bitter cold and lacerating wind to stand at the absolute bottom of the world, the South Pole. Nowhere was there a trace of their British rival, Robert Falcon Scott. No Union Jack mocked them, no ice cairn bespoke precedence. The Norwegians had won the race.

Amundsen and Scott: They were commanding forces driving early exploration of Antarctica, the ice-covered continent almost half again the size of the United States and unlike any other place on Earth. Both were driven by ambition to win fame by grabbing one of the few remaining unclaimed geographic prizes. Each was different, though, in temperament and approach to exploration, which may have been decisive in the success of one and the undoing of the other.

Earnest and methodical, Amundsen had previously wintered over with an expedition in Antarctica and succeeded in the first navigation of the Northwest Passage, north of Canada, as he learned well how to prepare for work on the planet's coldest, most unforgiving continent.

He knew from experience how indispensable well-trained dogs were for pulling sledges. His next destination was to have been the North Pole. But when he heard that two other groups claimed that triumph, Amundsen wrote that "there was nothing left for me but to try and solve the last great problem – the South Pole."

Scott was a navy officer

and a gentleman who had led an expedition that fell well short of the South Pole because of poor planning and execution. He had a romantic view of exploration as a self-affirming adventure, a kind of trial by ice. Using dogs to pull all the sledges he thought unsporting: better, he wrote, "to go forth to face the hardships, dangers and difficulties with their unaided efforts." This the Scott party had to do. Its motorized sledges and the ponies soon broke down, leaving them to pull the sledges all the way up a glacier to the high polar plateau.

When Amundsen's men already were only a week away from their base camp at the Bay of Whales, to complete their 2,000-mile round trip, the exhausted British team arrived at the pole on Jan. 17, 1912, five weeks too late. How deflating to see the Norwegian flag, alert to the wind. In his diary, Scott wrote: "Great God! This is an awful place and terrible enough for us to have laboured to it without the reward of priority."

Disappointment then turned to tragedy. Stalled by a nine-day blizzard, weak from hunger and sledge-pulling fatigue on the return trek, Scott and his four team members perished by the end of March. Most of the bodies were not found until November, at their last camp, among diaries and field notes and rock specimens they had gone perhaps too far out of the way to collect.

Scott may have lost the race to the pole, but in death, he prevailed in the narrative for much of the last century as the brave and stoic hero of legend.

SCIENTIFIC CONTEST

The time of Amundsen



An undated handout photo of scientists and engineers discuss how to pack equipment on the cargo aircraft that was arriving to transport the team home, in Antarctica. The 100th anniversary of the race to the South Pole has prompted a fresh look back and new research.

(Robin E. Bell via The New York Times)

and Scott was the heroic age of Antarctic exploration. The adventurous were in part attracted to the ice because, as the British mountaineer George Mallory was to say of Everest,

it was there: a recognized new challenge. Even so, the same competitive spirit drove individuals and nations to seek to be first to make scientific discoveries, as Edward J. Larson, a Pep-

perdine University historian and author of the recent book "An Empire of Ice: Scott, Shackleton, and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Science," describes in the Dec. 1 issue of the journal Nature.

As early as 1900, Larson notes, the British, notably teams under Ernest Shackleton and to a lesser extent Scott, as well as German scientists, measured the movement of glaciers and mapped the coast and the interior. From seabed sediments and outcrops they determined that Antarctica was a true continent – with a landmass underlying thick ice – in contrast to the Arctic, where the ice more thinly covers a wide sea. From fossils they learned that the continent was once warmer and home to abundant life, all clues to its earlier link to other southern continents. □

Philippine Supreme Court chief justice impeached

JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press
MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippine House of Representatives sent impeachment documents to the Senate on Tuesday accusing the Supreme Court chief justice of corruption and favoritism toward the country's former president, now under hospital arrest for alleged election fraud. A majority of 188 of the 284 members of the powerful House signed the resolution on Monday to impeach Chief Justice Renato Corona, who will now be tried by the Senate. Corona, who became the only known Supreme Court chief to be impeached in Philippine history, vowed to fight back. Among other allegations, the impeachment complaint accuses the Coronaled court of ruling improv-

erly in ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's favor when she sought to leave the country last month before she was arrested.

The surprise move is the latest twist in the Philippine political drama pitting Arroyo against her popular, reformist successor Benigno Aquino III, who has blamed her for a decade of corruption scandals that eroded public trust in government and held back foreign investors.

Arroyo appointed the Supreme Court chief justice shortly before she stepped down last year. Aquino has been at odds with Corona, accusing him of being biased for Arroyo and hampering her prosecution.

Aquino, son of revered democracy icons, succeeded her last year after a landslide election victory large-

ly credited to his illustrious name and promise to battle corruption and poverty in his Southeast Asian nation. His allies dominate the House, which had been the bedrock of Arroyo's power. Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., who heads the congressional justice committee, said Corona was impeached due to eight acts of alleged corruption and improperly issuing decisions that favored Arroyo.

A Manila court ordered Arroyo arrested on Nov. 18 in her hospital room after she was charged with ordering the rigging of 2007 senatorial elections to favor her candidates. She has denied any wrongdoing and has hired a battery of lawyers to defend her.

Arroyo, 64, is detained in a government hospital while awaiting trial. □

Prime minister's actions in Iraq raise concerns in the U.S.

JACK HEALY, TIM ARANGO
© 2011 New York Times

BAGHDAD – Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has moved swiftly to consolidate power in advance of the U.S. military withdrawal, offering a glimpse of how Iraq's post-American identity may take shape, by rounding up hundreds of former Baath Party members and evicting Western companies from the heavily fortified Green Zone.

As al-Maliki met with President Barack Obama in Washington on Monday to discuss Iraq's future after the end of a painful nine-year war, his aggressive actions back home raised new concerns in the West, where officials have long been uneasy with the prime minister's authoritarian tendencies. The actions also underscored the many lingering questions about America's uncertain ally, a prime minister who once found refuge in Syria and Iran and who will now help write the epitaph to the U.S. invasion.

"There are two dominant narratives in Washington

about Maliki," said Ramzy Mardini, an analyst at the Institute for the Study of War in Washington who recently published a report on the arrests. "Some say he is a nationalist; others say he is a puppet of Iran." Both are oversimplifications, he said: "Maliki is a Maliki-ist. His religion is the church of survivability." Al-Maliki, whose bland public persona belies his mastering of Iraq's zero-sum politics, will help decide if his nation preserves its fragile democracy or if it will return to one-man, one-party rule. As an exile from Saddam Hussein's Iraq who escaped a death warrant, al-Maliki has proven his ability to retain power. But he is also criticized for holding tight to a security-first mentality. And as a Shiite leader who some say owes his current position to Iran's backing, he has not made clear if Washington, or Tehran, will wield more influence.

A Western diplomat who has worked closely with al-Maliki said the prime minister's mindset still reflected



Jasim Nusaif, who was arrested recently with hundreds of other former Baathists, in a photograph held by his son in Baghdad, Dec. 4, 2011. As Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki met with President Barack Obama in Washington on Monday to discuss Iraq's future, Maliki's aggressive actions back home raised new concerns about his authoritarian tendencies, like arresting former Baath Party members and suspicious people like Nusaif.

(Michael Kamber/The New York Times)

the years after the American invasion when 3,000 Iraqi civilians were dying each month and sectarian war threatened to rip the country apart.

"He sees himself as fighting

since 2006 to pull the country out of the brink," the diplomat said.

But al-Maliki has also taken steps to put his stamp on the Green Zone, the physical center of government

whose geography and very name became shorthand for the cloistered U.S. presence. His son, Ahmed, has overseen raids evicting Western companies from the Green Zone in recent weeks. As the prime minister left for the U.S., onerous new security procedures were put in place at the few entrances into the area.

That, and the scale and secrecy of the arrests in October and November, of 600 former Baathists, have raised new tensions in Iraq's suspicious political atmosphere. They have fanned fears that al-Maliki will use the threat of terrorism and unrest as a pretext to strike political foes.

The Iraqi government said the arrests were prompted by a tip from Libya's transitional government that said documents revealed Moammar Gadhafi was working with insurgents to stage a coup. Al-Maliki has denied any sectarian or political motives behind the sweep, pointing out that both Shiites and Sunnis were arrested.

In an interview with Iraq's official television channel, he said the raids captured loyalists to Saddam conspiring with al-Qaida, not peaceful, low-level party apparatchiks.

"We do not have space in our government for those plotting against our government," he said.

A person briefed on the raid by Iraqi security forces said some of the detainees were in fact military and intelligence officials from the old regime. Other names on the target lists, however, included laborers, political adversaries of the government, the elderly – even some dead people.

"It's highly unlikely to be much validity behind" the coup plot, said a Western official who spoke on the condition of anonymity, to avoid upsetting relations with the Iraqi government. "Baathism here is a symbol that Maliki uses as a bogeyman. It gives them the leeway to go around arresting people. It's about a climate of fear." □

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Turkish border businesses miss Syrian neighbors

DAN BILEFSKY

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GAZIANTEP, Turkey – In the old bazaar of this ancient city, long entwined with Syria, the loud chatter of Syrians bartering in Arabic has given way to unfamiliar silence.

There is no sign of the 40,000 Syrians who trekked each month to the gleaming Sanko Park shopping mall here to buy designer head scarves or discounted Gucci shoes. There is no more need for public announcements in both Turkish and Arabic. Many came from Syria's largest city, Aleppo, just 60 miles away.

"We miss the Syrians," said Ercan Nacaroglu, surveying his empty jewelry store, and adding, "We hope the crisis will stop, because it is killing the local economy."

Only a year ago, Turkey and Syria were close al-

lies, as Turkey's governing Muslim-inspired Justice and Development Party sought to expand the country's economic influence and grow into a regional power. Their 500-mile border is Turkey's longest; during the Ottoman Empire, Gaziantep (pronounced gahzee-AHN-tep) was part of Aleppo province. Trade between the two countries had more than tripled since 2006, to \$2.5 billion in 2010. In combination with sanctions imposed by the Arab League, the European Union and the United States, Turkey's own tough measures – including freezing the Syrian government's assets – are slowly beginning to choke Assad's rule. But businesspeople here complain that the rupture cuts both ways.

On Monday, more than 150 Turkish truck drivers protest-



Employees work in a factory assembling shoes for Akinal Bella, which now imports bows from China following a Turkish tax increase on goods from Syria, in Gaziantep, Turkey. In the large industrial city, everyone from olive vendors to owners of large textile conglomerates says the shifting geopolitics are proving bad for business.

(Daniel Etter/The New York Times)

ed after they were forced to leave their vehicles in Syria and walk to the Turkish border; Damascus had closed down its crossing near Urfa, in eastern Turkey. The drivers told Turkey's NTV

news channel that Syrian looters had stolen their tires and batteries.

Turkish companies, which relied on Syria as a transit route to the Middle East,

have begun bypassing Syria, shipping goods via Iraq and the Mediterranean instead.

Syria last week unilaterally suspended its free trade agreement with Turkey, retaliating to the Turkish sanctions by introducing taxes of up to 30 cents on Turkish goods entering Syria. Turkey did the same.

Here in this large industrial center of 1.7 million people, everyone from olive vendors to owners of large textile conglomerates complained that the shifting geopolitics was proving bad for business, even if, as Turkey's economy minister, Zafer Caglayan, said last week, Syria suffers more than Turkey, which is its second-largest export market after China. □

Asia down on skepticism over EU crisis pact

PAMELA SAMPSON

Associated press

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian stock markets fell Tuesday as criticism by ratings agencies sparked wariness over a historic plan by the European Union to bind their economies closer together in an effort to fix a massive debt crisis.

Benchmark oil fell below \$98 per barrel while the dollar was steady against the euro and the yen.

Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 1.4 percent to 8,529.14. South Korea's Kospi gave up 1.6 percent to 1,868.66. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.3 percent to 18,341.16 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200

dropped 1.5 percent to 4,189.30. Benchmarks in mainland China, Singapore, Taiwan and Indonesia also fell. Malaysia rose. Markets rallied on Friday when the EU adopted a new fiscal pact meant to prevent a repeat of the financial fiasco that is now sweeping across countries that use the euro.

But that optimism dried up Monday, when credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch both said the deal was insufficient and would not materially ease debt pressure in Europe. Moody's warned that it will review all EU governments' ratings for possible downgrades in

early 2012.

"Following the comments from Moody's and Fitch, we expect to hear from S&P again soon for some post-summit comments. We already know S&P has France on ratings watch and may strip it of its AAA credit rating," Stan Shamu of IG Markets in Melbourne said in a report.

Under the deal, all 17 countries that use the euro agreed to allow a central European authority to oversee their future budgets and impose tighter controls on spending. They also agreed to automatic penalties if countries spend too much. □

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Personal Health:

The twice-victimimized of sexual assault

JANE E. BRODY

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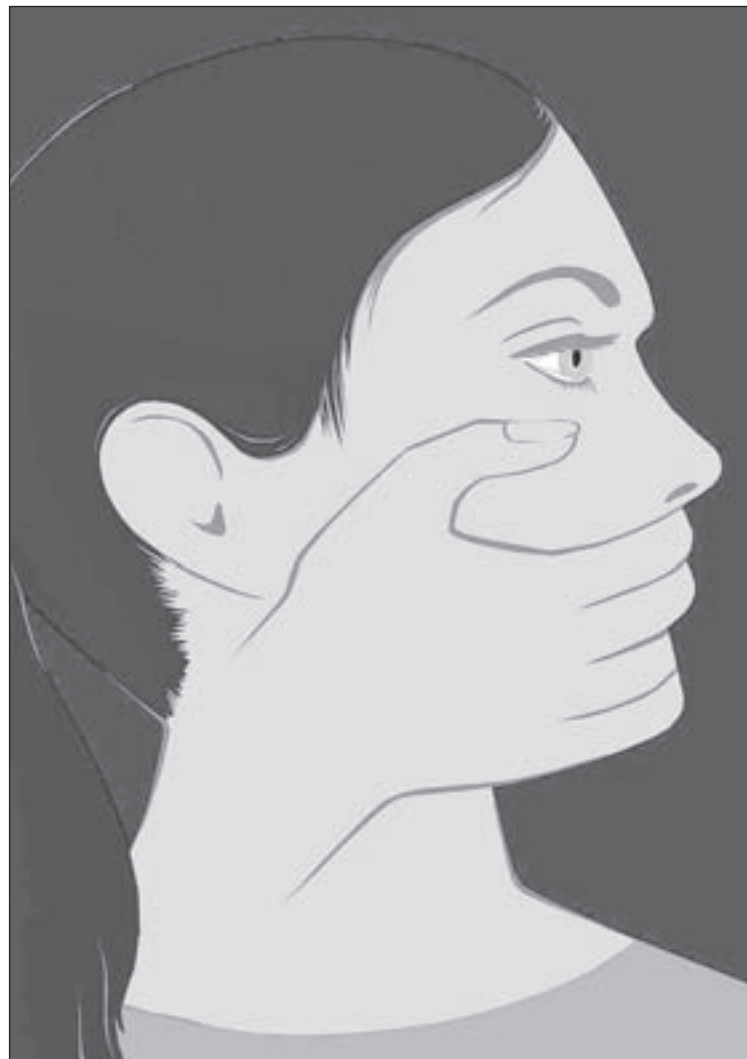
Nearly every woman I know can recall one or more instances in which she was sexually assaulted, harassed, threatened, inappropriately touched or even raped.

Yet few told anyone about it at the time or reported it to the police.

I have clear memories of three such episodes from my childhood, one of which involved a man who owned a store in my neighborhood. Not knowing at age 11 anything about reproduction (in 1952, expectant teachers had to take leave when they "showed"), I was terrified that I could become pregnant from having been forced to touch his penis.

I had trouble sleeping, and I avoided the block where the store was. Yet, fearing that the assault was somehow my fault, I said nothing to my parents.

Experts on sexual assault and rape report that even today, despite improvements in early sex education and widespread publicity about sexual assaults, the overwhelming majority of both felony and misdemeanor cases never come to public or legal attention. It is all too easy to see why. More often than not, women who bring charges of



Experts on sexual assault and rape report that, despite improvements in early sex education and widespread publicity about sexual assaults, the overwhelming majority of both felony and misdemeanor cases never come to public or legal attention.

(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

sexual assault are victims twice over, treated by the legal system and sometimes by the media as lying until proved truthful.

"There is no other crime I can think of where the victim is more victimized,"

trial. Rape is treated very differently than other felonies."

So, too, are the victims of lesser sexual assaults. In 1991, when Anita Hill, a lawyer and academic, told Congress that Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas had sexually harassed her repeatedly when she worked for him, Hill was vilified as a character assassin and liar acting on behalf of abortion-rights advocates.

Credibility became the issue, too, for Nafissatou Diallo, an immigrant chambermaid who accused the head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, of forcing her to perform fellatio in a Manhattan hotel room. Prosecutors eventually dropped the case after concluding that Diallo had lied on her immigration form and about other matters, although not directly about the encounter with Strauss-Kahn. When four women, two of whom identified themselves publicly, said they had been sexually harassed by Herman Cain, the Republican presidential hopeful, they, too, were called liars, perhaps hired by his opponents.

Charges of sexual harassment often boil down to "she said-he said" with no tangible evidence of

what really took place. But even when there is DNA evidence of a completed sexual act, the accused commonly claim that the sex was consensual, not a crime.

"DNA technology has not made a dramatic change in how victims are treated," Campbell said in an interview. "We write off a lot of cases that could be successfully prosecuted. It's bunk that these cases are too hard to prosecute."

Victims must be better supported with better forensics, investigations and prosecutions, Campbell said. "This is a public safety issue," she said. "Most rapists are serial rapists, and they must be held accountable." In one study, published in 1987 in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 126 admitted rapists had committed 907 rapes involving 882 victims. Rapists are not the only serial sexual offenders. Witness the all-too-frequent revelations of sexual abuse of children involving multiple victims and persisting for decades even when others in positions of authority knew it was going on.

In the latest such scandal, an assistant football coach at Penn State University stands accused of molesting 10 boys. The charges led to the firing of a revered head coach, Joe Paterno, and forced the resignation of the university president for failing to take more immediate action.

THE RISKS

Last year, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 272,350 Americans were victims of sexual violence, 80 percent of whom were under age 30. □

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Looking into the Future with PwC



Palm Beach – PwC Aruba hosted a well-attended and informative seminar at the Marriott Aruba Resort discussing year-end accounting tips which would be helpful in the planning process of the year ahead. PwC partners were on hand to share the lectern for the seminar portion of the event, and later meet clients and

mingle during the networking opportunity over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The seminar provided information on tax legislation and other regulations on Aruba, also information regarding tax deductions, changes in legislation, intended legislation, tax administration and documentation, tax compliance, tax

rates and other relevant business information. PwC Aruba offers high quality advice and support, benefitting from a network of specialists, domestically and internationally, prepared to assist in any tax challenge presented. Pictured here the PwC Aruba team, looking into the future! □

Year-end celebration honors resort's best Holiday cheers for Playa Linda employees



ORANJESTAD - The hard-working Housekeeping Department of the Playa Linda Beach Resort took top honors at the resort's year end celebration, at which recognition was provided for the best of the best at the resort. All of the employees of the popular timeshare resort took part in the holiday event, enjoying the dinner show at Sizzles and

in cheering on colleagues who deserved special honors this year. The recently completed renovation of the Playa Linda Beach Resort provided additional challenges for all employees, but the Housekeeping Department, led by Executive Housekeeper Filomena Maduro and Assistant Executive Housekeeper Ingrid Todd, proved

itself especially capable of taking on additional tasks as well as maintaining a high level of customer service. For the contributions made by its many team members, the Housekeeping team won the honor of "Department of the Year." A close second for the honor was the Maintenance Department, which equally did its part in demonstrating

a high level of commitment and dedication on the job. Individual honors went to Sylvester Silvestina, recognized as "Rookie of the Year"; Pedro Ogando for "Employee of the Year" and Jolanda Rosa for "Supervisor of the Year". Special recognition also went to Filomena Maduro, who will soon retire, but continue to contribute to the Playa

Linda, providing catering as the resort's cafeteria lunch chef. After the dinner show and the awards ceremony, the year-end party continued on through the evening, as Playa Linda employees took to the dance floor and enjoyed holiday toasts to mark shared accomplishments and in celebrating a successful 2011 year. □

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Notary Yarzagaray and his staff attend a year-end closing at Amazonia Churrascaria



Palm Beach --Notary Yarzagaray, his dedicated support staff – specialized in real estate closings - and some of his former partners, enjoyed an elegant Christmas dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria where they were welcomed by new Gen-

eral Manager Patrick v/d Berg for an unforgettable evening of excellent food and wine. The party began with a social round of cocktails and snapshots at the restaurant's bar. Amazonia Churrascaria has been welcoming many

groups, big and small, for Christmas dinners this season, tailoring menus and food selections to their specific needs and tastes. Pictured here members of the Notary's office and Patrick v/d Berg with his host staff. □

At The Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba Top performers on the job recognized



PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's Palm Beach Ballroom in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the Month for September and October. The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight'

every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations. During a beau-

tiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following were named top of the class: From Heart of the House for September-Stella Herrera from the Kitchen department for her ability to easily multi-task, and fill in for others when necessary-and all with a pleasant demeanor and a spirit of cooperation. For the Front of the House for September-Darrienne Arends from Sales, who colleagues say has a contagious "makes it happen" attitude that benefits Westin guests and the Sales department. From the Heart of the House for October-Sandra Lynch from Security, whose ability to keep a calm attitude within her department translates to better guest service and an overall better work environment.



Her 30-plus years with the resort are much appreciated. For the Front of the House for October, Marguerita Oemar from Service Express was lauded for her outstanding performance during the month of October when she needed to step in and help out with extra duties and work extra

hours because of a department illness. Also awarded for their outstanding service from the Westin's Palm Beach Casino were Eduard Ras for September and Lourdes Koelman for October. Pictured here are the nominees and winners...congratulations to all! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



5pm.
Catch your own dinner
A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.
Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.
Charter deep sea fishing rates:
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\$760- full day
Rates per boat
Max. 6 people
Driftwood Restaurant
Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad
Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com
Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm. □

KC Chiefs fire coach Todd Haley, promote Romeo Crennel

In this May 19, 2010 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel watches workouts during football mini-camp at the NFL football team's practice facility in Kansas City, Mo. The Kansas City Chiefs fired coach Todd Haley on Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Crennel was named the interim coach,

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY



Photo taken April 3, 2011, Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom gestures to referees during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Lakers trade Lamar Odom to Mavericks

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, California

(AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers traded forward Lamar Odom and a second-round draft pick to the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday for a first-round pick and an \$8.9 million trade exception, upsetting his now former teammates.

The Lakers and Mavericks reached a swift deal after Odom learned Thursday that Los Angeles was attempting to trade him in a megadeal for New Orleans superstar Chris Paul.

After the NBA blocked that trade, Odom declined to report to the Lakers' opening day of training camp on Friday. Odom then requested a trade in a meeting with general manager Mitch Kupchak, and the Lakers improbably swung a deal with the rival Mavericks, who swept Los Angeles out of the second round of last season's playoffs.

Continued on Next Page

GIANT FEAT



Cowboys share NFC East lead after 37-34 loss to NY

The New York Giants celebrate after Dallas Cowboys' Dan Bailey, center, had his field goal attempt blocked during the final seconds of an NFL football game against the New York Giants Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, in Arlington, Texas. New York won 37-34.

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Sources: Braun has positive drug test, appealing

RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — National League MVP Ryan Braun has tested positive for a banned substance and is appealing to avoid a 50-game suspension, according to people familiar with the case.

ESPN cited two sources Saturday in first reporting the result, saying the Milwaukee Brewers slugger tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone, adding that a later test by the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal determined the testosterone was synthetic.

A spokesman for Braun said in a statement issued to ESPN and The Associated

Press that "there are highly unusual circumstances surrounding this case which will support Ryan's complete innocence."

"There was absolutely no intentional violation of the program," Matthew Hiltzik said in a statement sent by the four-time All-Star left fielder's representatives.

"While Ryan has impeccable character and no previous history, unfortunately, because of the process we have to maintain confidentiality and are not able to discuss it any further, but we are confident that he will ultimately be exonerated," he said.

Major League Baseball does not announce positive tests and penalties in



In this Oct. 9, 2011, file photo, Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun hits a two-RBI double during the fifth inning in Game 1 of baseball's National League championship series against the St. Louis Cardinals, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

drug cases involving initial positives until all arbitration is concluded.

The case is still being appealed to an arbitrator under MLB's drug program, people familiar with the

situation told the AP. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the appeal is still ongoing and said Braun and others involved in the appeals process have known about

the positive test since late October.

One of the people said the appeals process is not likely to be concluded until January at the earliest. That person also told the AP that after being informed of the positive test, Braun asked to have another urine test taken, and that the second test was within normal range.

If suspended, Braun wouldn't be eligible to play for the NL Central champions until May 31. He would miss the first 57 days of the major league season, losing about \$1.87 million of his \$6 million salary.

Brewers owner Mark Atanasio praised Braun as "a model citizen in every sense of the word" and "a person of character and integrity."

"We are dealing with an incomplete set of facts and speculation. □

Vitali Klitschko to fight Dereck Chisora in Munich

CIARAN FAHEY

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Vitali Klitschko will defend his WBC heavyweight title against Britain's Dereck Chisora before turning his attention to a possible last bout against David Haye.

Klitschko's management group announced Monday that the 40-year-old Ukrainian will fight Chisora in Munich's Olympic Hall on Feb. 18, with German daily Bild reporting that Klitschko would then fight Haye in Germany in July.

"Haye will really get it, he will lose through knockout," Klitschko told Bild, adding that he wants to fight at least two bouts in 2012, before letting fans make a decision on his retirement.

"I don't want to break the age record of George Foreman, who boxed until he was 45," he said.

The 31-year-old Haye announced his retirement in October, but may be tempted to reverse the decision after indicating he would like a shot at the older Klitschko brother.

For now, Klitschko is focusing his attention on Chisora, who lost to Finland's Robert Helenius in a split decision for the vacant European title on Dec. 3.

Chisora's controversial loss



In this Dec. 6, 2011 file photo Ukrainian boxer Vitali Klitschko answer questions during a media event in Kiev, Ukraine.

Associated Press

in Helsinki was the 27-year-old's second and he immediately demanded a rematch.

"It's not only in his last fight — which he lost unfairly — that Chisora showed he's up to bigger opponents," Klitschko said. Chisora's record of 15 wins from 17 fights — including nine knockouts — pales in comparison to Klitschko's 40 knockouts from 43 wins and two losses, but the Ukrainian is not taking the Londoner lightly. "I'm warned by his excellent performance against Helenius and will, as always, prepare myself intensely and meticulously," he said. Klitschko produced a dominant performance to stop Polish challenger Tomasz Adamek in the 10th round of his last bout in September. □

ODOM Continued from Page17

"Lamar was a fine player for us in his seven years with the Lakers and was a key to helping us win two championships," Kupchak said in a statement. "In addition, he always conducted himself with class and professionalism, and we wish him well in the remainder of his career." Neither team formally acknowledged the deal until Sunday night, but both teams knew all about the surprising transaction when they reported for training camp practices that morning. "To be honest with you, I don't like it," Kobe Bryant said. "It's tough to lose Lamar. Pau (Gasol) is still here, and we're all thankful for that. It's hard when you've been through so many battles with players to just see them go somewhere else. It's tough."

Dallas coach Rick Carlisle and star Dirk Nowitzki spoke eagerly about adding Odom to the defending NBA champions' roster without losing a player in return. Odom will aid the Mavs' recovery from Tyson Chandler's departure to New York, and Carlisle said



In this photo taken Oct. 16, 2010, Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom goes up for a shot during the first half of their preseason NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Odom's partnership with Nowitzki and Shawn Marion would form the NBA's best frontcourt.

The Lakers used to have what was considered the NBA's best frontcourt — until they broke it up for reasons that are unclear to their players. Odom, a veteran team leader and a popular Hollywood celebrity, averaged 14.4 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3 assists while playing in all 82 games last season with his smooth, well-rounded game.

Bryant and Derek Fisher led

a chorus of confused anger from the Lakers, who have no idea what their front office is planning just two weeks before the season opener. Los Angeles is thought to be working on a deal for Orlando center Dwight Howard, but the trade exception obtained from Dallas could be only a minor part of any potential deal.

"As a basketball player, it confuses you as to what your focus should be," Fisher said. "I'm very disappointed and frustrated for (Odom and Gasol). If I had my choice, Lamar would be a Laker for life."

Bryant said he hated seeing Odom leave Los Angeles: "Especially to them. We were supposed to come back and get them back. It's tough. ... Do I think we got too little? Who did we get? I don't think Mark Cuban is protesting this trade." Although Odom was excited about the Lakers' prospects as recently as Wednesday, he never practiced with the Lakers in their first three workouts under new coach Mike Brown while the club attempted to move him to New Orleans. □

Crosby out again with concussion-like symptoms

WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby is out indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

Crosby said Monday he noticed a recurrence of the problems that sidelined him for more than 10 months earlier this year following a 3-1 loss to Boston last week. Crosby sat out Pittsburgh's two-game road trip to Philadelphia and New York as a precaution but said he's noticed familiar symptoms during light workouts over the weekend.

The 24-year-old former MVP said there is no timetable for his return but he

will definitely not play on Tuesday against Detroit.

Crosby has 12 points in eight games this season, but hasn't scored a goal since netting two in his season debut on Nov. 23 against the Islanders.

Crosby called the setback beyond frustrating but stressed it was important to be safe. □



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby takes a pass during a morning skate in preparation for his return to NHL hockey action against the New York Islanders in Pittsburgh, Monday, Nov. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

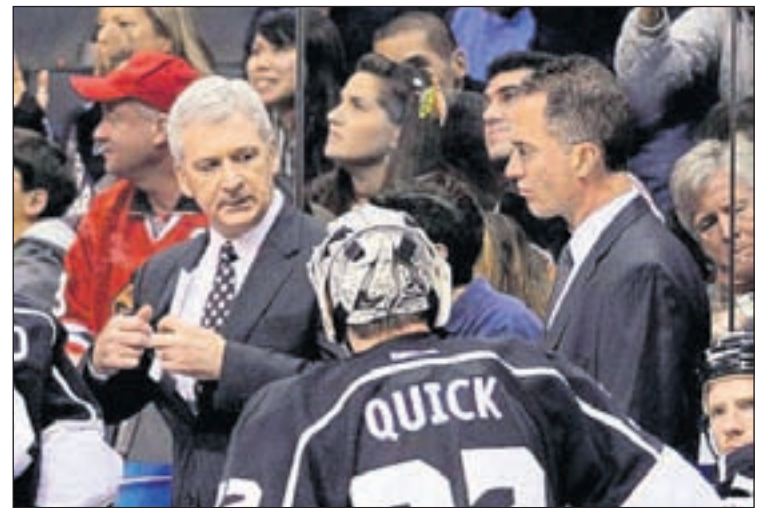
LA Kings fire coach Terry Murray after slow start

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings fired coach Terry Murray on Monday after a slow start to a season of high expectations.

Murray was replaced by assistant coach John Stevens, who will be the Kings' interim head coach when they open a four-game road trip Tuesday in Boston. Murray was behind the long-struggling Kings' bench for their best moments in the past decade, leading Los Angeles to consecutive playoff appearances after an eight-year absence.

He has the highest winning percentage (.560) of any coach in Los Angeles franchise history, but the Kings lost both of their first-round playoff series while under



In this Nov. 26, 2011, file photo, Los Angeles Kings head coach Terry Murray, left, talks to goalie Jonathan Quick as assistant coach John Stevens looks on during the third period of their NHL hockey game against the Chicago Blackhawks in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

his direction.

Murray clearly has struggled to reach his current club, which is mired in mediocrity after entertaining hopes of contending for the Stanley Cup. Los Angeles has lost four straight games to drop

to 13-12-4, culminating in a lifeless effort in a 2-1 home loss to Dallas last Saturday. The Kings have sunk to 11th place in the Western Conference standings while managing just 65 goals, second-fewest in the NHL. Despite adding forwards Mike Richards and Simon Gagne in the offseason, Los Angeles is scoring an NHL-worst 2.24 goals per game, including just 13 in its last eight games. Murray is the fifth coach to be fired already this season in the always-impatient NHL. He joins St. Louis' Davis Payne, Carolina's Paul Maurice, Washington's Bruce Boudreau and Anaheim's Randy Carlyle, who was replaced by Boudreau on Nov. 30. Although Murray has a deserved reputation as an excellent defensive coach, he lost his job largely because the Kings have struggled to score goals despite boosting their payroll to its highest level in several years. Los Angeles general manager Dean Lombardi believes his club has the talent to compete with the NHL's best teams, but just three players have scored more than five goals this season, and most of the Kings' forwards are mired in miserable offensive seasons, including Justin Williams, Dustin Penner, captain Dustin Brown, Brad Richardson and Jarret Stoll. Murray went 139-106-30 with the Kings after taking over the club in 2008. □

Chelios leads class of 5 into U.S. hockey hall

CHICAGO (AP) — Chris Chelios led a class of five inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame on Monday night.

The three-time Norris Trophy winner and four-time Olympian was joined by fellow defenseman Gary Suter, who played with Chelios at the University of Wisconsin and for the Chicago Blackhawks, forward Keith Tkachuk, Philadelphia Flyers owner Ed Snider and broadcaster Mike Emrick.

Chelios played for three Stanley Cup teams, one for Montreal and two for Detroit, in 26 seasons. Suter was the NHL's top rookie for Calgary in 1985-86. Tkachuk scored 538 goals in 19 NHL seasons, and, like Chelios, played on four Olympic teams.

Snider was among the Flyers' founders in 1966. Emrick, the lead play-by-play announcer for NBC and Versus, has called 13 Stanley Cup finals. □

NHL Roundup

Stepan helps Rangers cruise past Florida Panthers 6-1

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's Derek Stepan scored twice, including a pretty coast-to-coast goal just after the Rangers killed a penalty, to set up the 6-1 win over the Florida Panthers in the NHL on Sunday. Stepan also assisted on Marian Gaborik's goal late in the second period that made it 5-1 and seemed to take what spring remained out of the Panthers. New York looked nothing like a team playing for the second night in a row, putting away the Panthers comfortably.

Brad Richards, Artem Anisimov and former Panthers defenseman Steve Eminger also scored for New York.

Erik Gudbranson scored for Florida.

BLACKHAWKS 3, SHARKS 2, OT

In Chicago, Patrick Sharp steered in a loose puck off a rebound at 4:26 of overtime to give Chicago victory over San Jose. □



New York Rangers' Derek Stepan, left, scores on Florida Panthers goalie Jose Theodore in the second period of the NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011.

Associated Press

Antti Niemi stopped Marian Hossa's shot from the top of the right circle, but kicked the puck toward the goal line. Sharp swooped in to bury the rebound for his sixth goal in his past six games.

Chicago's Andrew Brunette forced overtime when he

scored on deflection with 1:06 left in the third period, with the goalie pulled for an extra attacker.

Rookie Marcus Kruger also scored for the Blackhawks. Jamie McGinn and Justin Braun scored for San Jose. □

Chiefs fire Haley after 5-8 start to season

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— The Kansas City Chiefs fired coach Todd Haley on Monday, less than a year after he led the team to the AFC West title, and appointed Romeo Crennel the interim coach.

The injury-ravaged Chiefs dropped to 5-8 after Sunday's 37-10 loss to the New York Jets in which they committed 11 penalties for 128 yards, including a 15-yarder on Haley for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"This was a difficult decision but one that we feel is best for the future of the Chiefs," Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt said in a statement. "Although there have been bright spots at different points this season, we have not made meaningful progress."

Crennel, the former Cleveland Browns coach, served as Haley's defensive coordinator. The Chiefs have called an afternoon news conference in which he's expected to be available. We felt that it was necessary to make a change," Hunt said. "We appreciate Todd's contributions dur-



In this Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 photo, Kansas City Chiefs head coach Todd Haley yells during the third quarter of the NFL football game against the New York Jets, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

ing his time with the club, and we wish him well in the future." There have been rumblings about Haley's job status ever since training camp, when the NFL lockout caused him to take an unorthodox approach. Rather than going full speed throughout camp, Haley opted instead to spend the majority of the time on conditioning and strength training.

He hoped that would cut

down on the risk of injuries given an abbreviated off-season.

Instead, the Chiefs lost starting linebacker Brandon Siler to a torn Achilles in camp, and tight end Tony Moeaki went down with a torn knee ligament in their preseason finale. Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry sustained the same injury in Week 1 against Buffalo, and All-Pro running back Jamaal Charles tore a ligament in his knee the follow-

ing week at Detroit.

After three lopsided losses to start the season, Kansas City managed to rattle off four straight wins and pull into a tie atop the division. Haley was being applauded for keeping the team together despite such adversity, and there was a happy-go-lucky attitude at the practice facility.

That all changed when the Chiefs lost to previously winless Miami at home, the start of a dismal stretch in which they dropped four straight and five of their last six. Along the way, quarterback Matt Cassel broke his right hand and landed on injured reserve, and the lack of depth behind him forced Haley to start journeyman Tyler Palko the past four games.

Kansas City has managed only two touchdowns with Palko under center. Besides the dismal performance on the field, it was not a secret within the walls of the team's practice facility that there was friction between Haley and Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli.

Pioli said several weeks ago

that he values consistency within an organization, and the former Patriots executive has used the Pittsburgh Steelers as the blueprint for rebuilding the Chiefs. But the decision to part with Haley is just the second in-season firing of a head coach in franchise history — Paul Wiggins was fired after seven games during the 1977 season.

"We believe change is important at this time," Pioli said in a statement.

Haley leaves with a 19-27 record in nearly three years at his first NFL head coaching job. The Chiefs won the AFC West last season with a 10-6 record.

Previously, he was the offensive coordinator for Arizona when the Cardinals won the NFC title in 2008. He also was an assistant coach with Dallas, Chicago and the New York Jets.

Haley is the second coach fired this season; Jack Del Rio was dismissed by the Jacksonville Jaguars late last month.

"Todd helped this team in many valuable ways over the past three seasons, and I am thankful for his contributions," Pioli said. □

Dolphins fire Tony Sparano as coach

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Tony Sparano

has been fired as coach of the Miami Dolphins, the third dismissal of an NFL coach in the past two weeks.

The move came Monday, one day after the Dolphins lost to the Philadelphia Eagles to fall to 4-9. The defeat ended a recent surge by the Dolphins after they lost their first seven games.

With two other teams already in the market for a new coach, owner Stephen Ross didn't want to wait any longer to start shopping. Sparano's dismissal came hours after the Kansas City Chiefs fired coach Todd Haley. Jacksonville fired coach Jack Del Rio on Nov. 29. Todd Bowles, who had been Miami's assistant head coach and secondary coach, will be the in-

terim head coach for the final three games, starting Sunday at Buffalo.

The Dolphins are assured of their third consecutive losing season, the longest such streak since the 1960s. They'll miss the playoffs for the ninth time in 10 years. Ross is eager to boost sagging attendance, and he's expected to pursue a coach with star power. Among those mentioned as possible candidates are Bill Cowher, Jeff Fisher and Jon Gruden.

Sparano began the season aware he was on borrowed time. After Miami's late-season fade to 7-9 last year, Ross embarked on a public courtship with Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh. When Harbaugh instead joined the San Francisco 49ers, Ross gave Sparano a contract extension through

2013. But Ross made clear he expected substantial improvement this season, saying the Dolphins had "the nucleus of a great winning team."

Ross gave Sparano a vote of confidence after the Dolphins lost their first four games, but now they'll start over again. Bowles is the sixth coach since 2004 for the Dolphins, who haven't won a playoff game since 2000 and haven't reached the Super Bowl since 1984. In Sparano's first season as an NFL head coach, he led the Dolphins to a surprising 11-5 record, the 2008 AFC East title and their only playoff game since 2001. He departs with a record of 29-32. Shortly before he was fired, Sparano held his regular Monday news conference. When asked if he wanted to comment on reports he

would be fired after the season, he said no.

"I want to coach against the Buffalo Bills this week. That's my sole focus," he said.

Sparano was popular with his players, but a dismal home record and declining attendance accelerated his departure. The Dolphins lost 12 of 13 home games during one stretch.

Sparano's teams tended to be dull, too. Last year Miami ranked third-worst in the NFL in scoring, and this year their offense often sputtered.

His departure represents further dismantling of the regime built by Bill Parcells after he joined the Dolphins in late 2007. Ross took over as owner in early 2009, and Parcells gave up control of football operations before last season. □



In this Sept. 25, 2011, file photo, Miami Dolphins head coach Tony Sparano walks the sideline during the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns in Cleveland. Sparano was fired by the team, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, one day after the Dolphins lost to the Philadelphia Eagles to fall to 4-9, assuring them of their third consecutive losing season, the team's longest such streak since the 1960s.

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Rodgers leads perfect Packers over Raiders

NFL Roundup

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP)

— Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 281 yards with two touchdowns in less than three quarters of work, leading the Packers to a 46-16 win over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday and extending their perfect NFL record.

Ryan Grant had two touchdowns rushing and Charles Woodson picked off a pass against his former team as the Packers ran their record to 13-0 — moving them within three games of completing a perfect regular season. And they did it with a near-perfect performance.

Carson Palmer threw for 245 yards with a touchdown and four interceptions for the Raiders (7-6), who looked like anything but legitimate contenders in the AFC West.

The biggest concern for the Packers was an apparent left knee injury to wide receiver Greg Jennings in the third quarter.

TEXANS 20, BENGALS 19

In Cincinnati, rookie quarterback T.J. Yates led the biggest drive in Houston history, throwing a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2 seconds left to clinch victory over Cincinnati and seal the first ever NFL playoff berth for the franchise.

With their seventh straight win, the Texans (10-3) moved to the threshold of their first playoff berth. They clinched the AFC South title a few minutes later when Tennessee lost to New Orleans.

Cincinnati (7-6) couldn't prevent the Texans from going 80 yards in the closing minutes, led by their third quarterback in the past four games. Yates' 6-yard throw to Kevin Walter — uncovered at the goal line — set off a celebration on the Houston sideline.

SAINTS 22, TITANS 17

In Nashville, Tennessee, Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Marques Colston in the fourth quarter to lead New Orleans to its fifth straight victory, beating Tennessee. The NFC South-leading Saints (10-3) had little trouble picking up yards, but struggled to score until Brees and Colston connected on passes of 35 and 28 yards.

The Titans (7-6) twice had the ball in the final minutes with a chance to win. The first time,

New Orleans stopped Tennessee's back-up quarterback Jake Locker on fourth-and-1 at the Saints 24 with 2:18 left. The second time,

Jo-Lonn Dunbar sacked a scrambling Locker on third-and-goal as time expired. Brees threw for 347 yards and joined Hall of Famer Johnny Unitas as the only quarterbacks to throw a touchdown pass in 40 straight games.

Locker replaced Matt Hasselbeck, who hurt his left calf in the second quarter.

CARDINALS 21, 49ERS 19

In Glendale, Arizona, John Skelton stepped in for the injured Kevin Kolb and threw for 282 yards and



Oakland Raiders' Aaron Curry (51) tackles Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers (12) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, in Green Bay, Wis. The play was ruled an incomplete pass.

Associated Press

three touchdowns, helping Arizona rally and inflict just the third defeat this season upon San Francisco.

Larry Fitzgerald had seven catches for 149 yards, including a 46-yarder for a touchdown and a 53-yarder to set up the go-ahead score in the fifth victory in six games for Arizona (6-7). Kolb left the game after a blow to the head on Arizona's third play.

Skelton, benched after throwing three interceptions in last month's loss at San Francisco, had a 60-yard TD pass to Early Doucet and a 3-yard toss to Andre Roberts for what proved to be the winning score early in the fourth quarter.

BRONCOS 13, BEARS 10, OT

In Denver, Matt Prater's 51-yard field goal with 8:34 left in overtime gave Denver

victory over Chicago, having kicked a 59-yarder with 2 seconds left in regulation to tie the scores.

It was Denver's sixth straight win, and half of them have come in OT since Tim Tebow was promoted to starting quarterback.

After failing to score on their first 11 possessions, the AFC West-leading Broncos (8-5) erased a 10-0 deficit in the final 2:08 of regulation. Tebow hit Demaryius Thomas with a 10-yard touchdown pass, then got the ball back with 58 seconds left and drove Denver downfield for Prater's kick. The Bears (7-6) won the toss in overtime and were in field goal range when Marion Barber coughed up the football at the Broncos 34 and Elvis Dumervil recovered.

PATRIOTS 34, REDSKINS 27

In Landover, Maryland, Tom Brady threw for 357 yards and three touchdowns as New England won its fifth straight, edging Washington.

Rob Gronkowski set an NFL single-season record for most touchdown catches by a tight end, adding his 14th and 15th to move past Antonio Gates and Vernon Davis.

The Patriots (10-3) again used their bend-but-don't-break defense.

The Redskins drove to the New England 5-yard line late but Rex Grossman's pass went off Santana Moss' hands and was intercepted by Jerod Mayo with 22 seconds to play.

Washington (4-9) has lost eight of its past nine.

GIANTS 37, COWBOYS 34

In Arlington, Texas, Eli Manning ended New York's four-game losing streak in style, leading the Giants to two touchdowns in the final 3:14 in a result that brought them level with Dallas for first place in the NFC East.

Dallas appeared to tie the game with a 47-yard field goal as time expired, but New York called a timeout. Given another chance to force overtime, rookie Dan Bailey's kick was blocked by Jason Pierre-Paul — who also had a sack for a safety and forced a fumble.

The Giants (7-6) and Cowboys are tied atop the division, but this victory gives New York the inside track. The teams will meet again in the season finale, on New Year's Day, at the Giants' home field.

JETS 37, CHIEFS 10

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101 GREAT WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

Co-authored by Aruba's Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

Tiniest babies are growing up healthy despite odds

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — One is a healthy first-grader, the other an honors college student majoring in psychology. Once the tiniest babies ever born, both girls are thriving, despite long odds when they entered the world weighing less than a pound (.4 kilograms).

A medical report from the doctor who resuscitated the infants at a suburban Chicago hospital is both a success story and a cautionary tale. These two are the exceptions, and their remarkable health years later should not raise false hope: Most babies this small do poorly and many do not survive even with advanced medical care.

"These are such extreme cases," said Dr. Jonathan Muraskas of Loyola University Medical Center. They should not be considered "a benchmark" to mean that doctors should try to save all babies so small, he said.

The report involves Madeline Mann, born in 1989 weighing 9.9 ounces, then the world record; and 7-year-old Rumaisa Rahman, whose 9.2-ounce birth weight remains the world's tiniest. Rumaisa's birth weight was initially reported as several ounces less, but that figure was based on a different conversion scale. Two other babies born since 1989 weighed less than Madeline, and a German girl was born last year at her same birth weight.

The report was released online Monday in *Pediatrics*. It addresses a question that was hotly debated when Madeline was born 22 years ago, remains hot now — and still has no answer:

"What is the real age of viability? No one knows," said Dr. Stephen Welty, neonatology chief at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.



his June 1989 file photo provided by the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., shows Madeline Mann shortly after her premature birth weighing 9.9 ounces. She is now an honors student in psychology at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. A medical report released Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, in *Pediatrics Journal* details their progress but says most babies born that small fare poorly.

Associated Press

Muraskas and the report's co-authors say most newborn specialists consider babies born after 25 weeks of pregnancy to be viable — likely to survive — and so they should receive medical intervention if necessary to breathe. Younger babies are generally in a "gray zone," where intervention isn't always so clear cut, the report suggests.

In Japan, doctors have lowered that threshold — the gestational age — to 22 weeks. Normal pregnancies last about 40 weeks. Some U.S. doctors will attempt to save babies at 22 weeks, but that is not done routinely, said Dr. Edward Bell, a University of Iowa pediatrics professor.

Bell runs an online registry of the world's tiniest babies,

born weighing less than about 14 ounces, or slightly less than 1 pound. Since 1936, 124 have been listed. The registry is compiled from doctors' voluntary reports and so does not represent

about 10 percent survive. Sometimes tiny babies with zero chance of surviving show signs of life at birth, and may be able to breathe for a short time if put in an incubator and hooked up to a breathing machine and intravenous treatments. "But even so, if it's a baby that doesn't have a chance, we don't want to put the baby and the family through the discomfort," Bell said.

Muraskas says his report highlights a sometimes overlooked fact: gestational age is even more critical for survival than size. Rumaisa and Madeline were both palm-sized, weighing less than a can of soda — the average size of an 18-week-old fetus but they were several weeks older than that. Their gestational ages — almost 26 weeks for Rumaisa and almost 27 weeks for Madeline



This undated family photo provided Dec. 8, 2011, by the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., shows 22-year-old Madeline Mann.

Associated Press

all survivors. Bell estimates that about 7,500 U.S. babies are born each year weighing less than 1 pound, and that

— meant their lungs and other organs were mature enough to make survival possible. But both required intensive

medical intervention. They were delivered by cesarean section more than a month early because their mothers had developed severe pre-eclampsia, dangerously high blood pressure linked with pregnancy. Both babies were hooked up immediately to breathing machines with tubes as slender as a spaghetti strand slipped down their tiny airways.

Rumaisa has a twin who was more than twice as big at birth. Few details about her are included in the report.

Before the births, both mothers were given steroid drugs to speed up growth of the babies' immature lungs. Even so, Rumaisa and Madeline were on breathing machines for about two months, and hospitalized for about four months.

Madeline had mild brain bleeding, common in tiny preemies, but with no lasting effects. Severe cases can cause serious mental disabilities. She and Rumaisa got treatment for an eye condition common in preemies called retinopathy, which in severe cases can cause blindness.

Madeline has asthma and remains petite — 4 foot 8 and about 65 pounds at age 20; Rumaisa at age 5 weighed 33 pounds and was 3 1/2 feet tall, smaller than about 90 percent of kids her age. Current information on the girls' size was not in the report; Madeline is now 22 and a senior at Augustana College; Rumaisa is 7 and attends first grade in suburban Chicago.

Jim Mann, Madeline's father, said having a baby born so small was "terrifying" at first. □



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U.S. protests boost sales and fears of sonic blaster

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

QUANTICO, Virginia (AP) — Police deployment of sonic blasters at Occupy Wall Street and G-20 protest rallies is fueling both sales and criticism of the devices, which emit beams of sound with laser-like intensity. More U.S. police and emergency-response agencies are using the so-called Long-Range Acoustic Devices instead of megaphones or conventional loudspeakers for crowd control, according to news reports and leading manufacturer LRAD Corp. of San Diego. But the products, which the makers developed as nonlethal options for military use, are prompting

outcries from people on the receiving end, who call them "sound cannons." The city of Pittsburgh is fighting an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit claiming the piercing tone from a police blaster during the 2009 G-20 summit permanently damaged a woman's hearing. At least one Occupy Wall Street protester says New York City police also used the punishing alert tone, although police say they have used the device only to broadcast messages. LRAD says its products offer police something louder than a megaphone and more benign than rubber bullets and tear gas for managing crowds, defusing hostage situations and serving warrants on dan-

gerous suspects. "All of these events have helped bring interest to LRAD as new way to take care of these type of situations where they haven't had them before," company spokesman Robert Putnam said. The publicly traded company had record sales of \$26 million in the 2011 fiscal year ending Sept. 30, up 57 percent from a year earlier. Foreign and domestic military customers accounted for at least 58 percent of sales. The company said Dec. 5 in its year-end report that it sees increased commercial applications for LRADs in areas including law enforcement. The company developed the devices for the U.S.



In this photo taken Sept. 14, 2011, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bevington, requirements officer with the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, demonstrates one of the military's latest voice projection system and instant translation technologies, that can project a human voice a mile away and instantly translate from English to another language, at the Marine Base in Quantico Va. Associated Press

Japan launches its 2nd spy satellite this year

ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan successfully put a spy satellite into orbit on Monday and expects to complete its network of intelligence-gathering satellites with another launch next year. Japan's space agency, JAXA, said the launch from the remote southern island of Tanegashima went off without a hitch and the radar-equipped satellite is functioning properly. It was the second launch of the year, following a successful liftoff in September. Officials refused to provide details of the satellite's capabilities. Japanese media reports say it will augment the optical satellites Japan has already launched by providing data of what is happen-

ing on the ground at night or through cloud cover. Japan launched its first pair of spy satellites in 2003, prompted by concerns over North Korea's missile program. It currently has four optical information-gathering satellites in orbit, though the latest of those is not fully operational yet. It previously launched two radar intelligence satellites, but both malfunctioned. The satellite launched Monday is expected to begin gathering intelligence in a few months, an official with the Cabinet Satellite Information Center told The Associated Press. He requested anonymity because details of the program are classified. Another radar satellite launch is planned next year, the official said. That would give Japan the



An H-2A rocket carrying a radar satellite lifts off from the Tanegashima Space Center in Tanegashima, Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, Monday morning, Dec. 12, 2011. Associated Press

combination of two optical and two radar satellites that it wants to complete its network. Tokyo is seeking to use the satellites to provide information on any given spot on the planet at least once a day. □

Navy after the deadly 2000 attack on the USS Cole off Yemen to give sailors a way of ordering small boats to stop approaching U.S. warships. Until 2009, they were known mainly for seagoing applications, including deterring pirates from attacking cruise ships. LRAD said the Louisiana National Guard used its products to communicate with victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The products range from a battery-operated, handheld unit to a 320-pound (145-kilogram) device with an advertised range of nearly 2 miles (3.2 kilometers). Even the smallest unit, the LRAD 100X, emits as much as 137 decibels at 1 meter. That's louder than a jet takeoff at 100 meters but lower than the pain threshold of 140 decibels, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Putnam said LRAD broadcast levels are purposely kept below the threshold that could cause permanent hearing damage from brief exposure. He acknowl-

edged that prolonged exposure can cause damage, comparing it to listening to a fire siren for a long time. The Associated Press witnessed a demonstration in September of the 149-decibel, 500X model at Marine Corps Base Quantico, in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington. At a distance of about 250 yards (meters), it clearly emitted spoken words, a recorded train whistle and an annoying squeal — the alert tone. Karen Piper, a University of Missouri professor, visited Pittsburgh during the September 2009 G-20 summit to research whether protesters have any effect on the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. She claims in a federal lawsuit she was about 100 feet (30 meters) from an LRAD mounted on a moving vehicle when it emitted a "piercing, continuous, high-pitched sound" for a number of minutes, causing permanent hearing loss. □

Euro pact faces UK hurdle, ebbing market faith

LONDON (AP) — Europe's ability to solve its debt crisis and rescue the imperiled euro continues to face doubts as investors worry that plans for closer fiscal unity will bring little immediate relief and have exposed the continent's deep political divisions. British Prime Minister David Cameron was the only leader among the European Union's 27 members to refuse last week to join a plan under which nations submit their budgets for central EU review and limit the deficits they can run. As the rift between Britain, which has its own currency, and the 17 euro nations fed uncertainty about the deal's implementation, ratings agencies Moody's and Fitch warned the plan would make little difference. The summit produced "few new measures" and Europe remains in a "critical and volatile stage," Moody's said in a published report. It noted that the pact does not address Europe's immediate problem: the crushing debt loads of some nations and their rising borrowing costs. The agreement "kicks off a process that has a chance of solving the next crisis, not this one," warned Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott. Stocks plunged and the euro hit a 10-week low against the dollar as market

confidence in the plan and Europe's ability to end the crisis ebbed. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dove as many as 243 points before closing down 163, while European stocks also closed sharply lower. Yields on Italian bonds rose to 6.76 percent, closing in on the 7 percent level that forced fellow eurozone nations Greece, Ireland and Portugal to take bailouts. Cameron defended his rejection in the House of Commons, telling U.K. lawmakers the fiscal pact that envisions using the EU's executive arm as a budget watchdog could face even more political hurdles. "The choice was a treaty without proper safeguards or no treaty, and the right answer was no treaty. It was not an easy thing to do, but it was the right thing to do," Cameron said. The British leader was greeted with cheers from his own euroskeptic Conservatives but jeers from opposition lawmakers, who worry Britain will find itself sidelined from key European decisions. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton backed Britain's position, telling reporters "the role that the U.K. has played in Europe will continue." But French President Nicolas Sarkozy blasted Britain for dividing the continent. "There are clearly two Europes," Sarkozy was

quoted as telling Le Monde newspaper. In Italy, one of the continent's most troubled economies, workers angry about government austerity reforms went on strike and held nationwide rallies. Strikes idled some Fiat auto plants and forced Milan's famed La Scala opera house to cancel a performance. It was the first of days of union walkouts and

and workers and not hard enough on the wealthy. "Fairness, fairness!" shouted workers marching in Florence. Twenty-three European countries — including Italy — have said they are in favor of the fiscal pact announced Friday in Brussels, while three more say they are open to the idea. Under the deal, a central European authority would

— despite Britain's refusal to take part. But that optimism soured Monday as traders sought more short-term support for European financial markets. They were also disappointed that the European Central Bank sharply cut back its purchases of government bonds to only €635 million (\$841 million) last week, underlining the bank's stance that indebted governments should dig out of their own debt problems. Credit ratings agency Fitch said "it seems that a 'comprehensive solution' to the current crisis is not on offer." Moody's warned it still plans to review all EU governments' ratings for possible downgrades during the first three months of 2012. Cameron's decision to veto an EU treaty to solve the crisis has angered European counterparts — and will cause complications over how the pact is implemented and monitored. The British leader insisted Monday that his stance was aimed at sheltering London's financial services industry from burdensome new EU regulation. "This is new territory and does raise important issues which we will want to explore with the 'euro plus' countries," Cameron said, referring to the block of 17 eurozone nations and nine other EU countries who say they'll either sign up to or consider the new pact. □



A trader gestures at the stock market in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, as the German stock index DAX dropped more than two per cent. Enthusiasm for riskier assets such as stocks and the euro faded Monday as investors worried that Europe's new pact aimed at fixing the continent's debt crisis would be insufficient.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

demonstrations against spending cuts and tax hikes that Italy's new technocratic government is seeking to restore investor confidence. Unions say Italy's austerity measures are hitting too hard on pensioners

oversee their future budgets and impose tougher spending controls. The participants would also agree to automatic penalties if countries spend too much. Markets had initially rallied Friday on news of the deal

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US Gov't on pace

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government is on pace to run a deficit below \$1 trillion for the first time in four years, modest progress in the face of intense debate in Washington over spending.

The Treasury Department said Monday that the deficit was \$137 billion in November. That brings the total for the first two months of the budget year to \$236 billion — \$55 billion less than the same two months last year.

Still, part of the reason for the lower deficit is an accounting quirk.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the government will run a \$973 billion deficit for the 2012 budget year, which began on Oct. 1. While that's lower than last year's \$1.3 trillion imbalance, it would still be higher than any previous deficit before fiscal year 2009.

The government ran an all-time record deficit of \$1.41 trillion in 2009, and a \$1.29 trillion imbalance in 2010.

The CBO estimate does not include an extension of the Social Security tax cut and emergency unemployment benefits. Congress is likely to extend both before they expire at the end of the year. That could push the deficit back above \$1 trillion if those programs aren't offset. The two programs are estimated to cost around \$200 billion.

A big reason the first two months are lower than last year is an accounting shift. Roughly \$31 billion in benefit payments for October went out in late September. Federal benefits are paid on the first day of the month. But because Oct. 1 fell on a Saturday, the payments went out a day earlier and were accounted for in last year's deficit.

Through, the first two months of this budget year, government spending totals \$551.2 billion. That's down 5.8 percent from a year ago, by mostly reflects the benefit shift. □

Stocks fall as rating agencies knock euro deal

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks closed sharply lower Monday after doubt emerged that last week's historic agreement to bind the budgets of European countries more closely together will solve the region's financial crisis.

Fitch Ratings said the region will face "a significant economic downturn" as it wrestles with its sovereign debt crisis for another year or more. Moody's Investors Service said the summit produced "few new measures." Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott, said the agreement "kicks off a process that has a chance of solving the next crisis, not this one."

The euro hit a 10-week low against the dollar, plunging nearly 2 cents. Yields on Italian bonds rose as investors fretted about that nation's debt burden. European stocks fell. Treasury yields fell as investors shifted money into U.S. government debt. All 10 industry groups in the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell, led by banks and energy stocks. Falling stocks outnumbered rising ones four-to-one on the New York Stock Exchange.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Stocks closed sharply lower after two big rating agencies criticized a fiscal pact between European leaders last week that is aimed at easing the region's debt crisis.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Intel Corp. dragged the Dow Jones industrial average lower, falling 4 percent after the chipmaker said its fourth-quarter revenue will be lower than expected because of supply chain problems caused by massive flooding in Thailand. Intel is considered a bellwether for the computer industry because its chips are used in a wide range of products. The Dow closed down 162.87 points, or 1.3 percent, at 12,021.39. It

was down as much as 243 points before rising in the final hour of trading. Monday's loss erased nearly all of the Dow's gains from last week. The S&P 500 lost 18.72 points, or 1.5 percent, to close at 1,236.47. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 34.59, or 1.3 percent, to close at 2,612.26. Moody's said earlier in the day that it will review the credit ratings of all European Union nations in the first quarter of next year.

The statement doused optimism among investors that had lifted stocks and other risky investments. Prior to Monday, the S&P 500 had risen 8.3 percent over the past two weeks. Moody's said Europe remains in a "critical and volatile stage." The pact, Moody's noted, does not address Europe's immediate problem: the crushing debt loads of some nations and their rising borrowing costs. Last week's agreement calls for tougher fiscal discipline among European countries and a central authority with the ability to punish those that spend too much. Financial stocks declined steeply. Investors fear that big banks might be damaged by the turmoil in Europe. Morgan Stanley fell 6.1 percent, Citigroup Inc. 5.4 percent. Bank of America Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. posted the biggest and third-biggest losses in the Dow 30, falling 4.7 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.02 percent from 2.07 percent late Friday, indicating stronger demand for low-risk investments. Bond yields fall as demand for them increases. □

Fed nearing a plan to clarify direction of rates

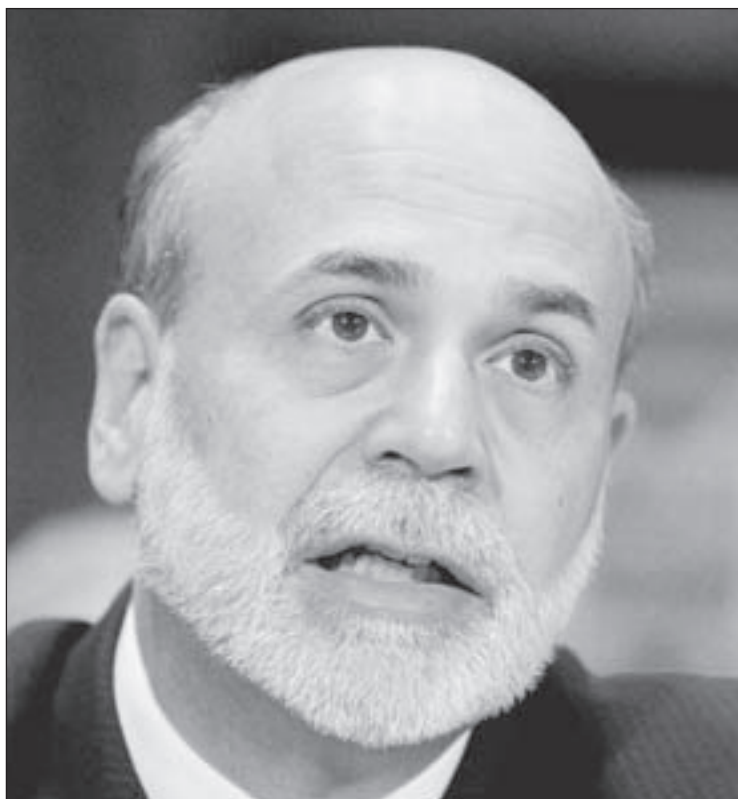
MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve under Ben Bernanke has gone further than ever to explain its policies to the public. It's ready to go further still.

A Fed policy meeting Tuesday will likely focus, in part, on an evolving plan to reveal the direction of interest rates more explicitly. The Fed may decide, for example, to regularly update the public on how long it plans to keep short-term rates at record lows.

The new communications strategy could be unveiled as soon as next month.

Most analysts expect no announcements Tuesday about the new strategy or any further steps to try to strengthen the economy. They think the Fed wants to



delay any new programs, such as additional bond

purchases, to see if the economy can continue

the modest gains it's been making.

Still, the U.S. economy remains vulnerable, especially to the impact of the financial crisis and likely recession in Europe. So the Fed is keeping its options open.

It's already taken numerous unorthodox steps to try to lift the economy. December, for example, will mark three years since it cut its key rate, the federal funds rate, to a record low of between zero and 0.25 percent. It has also bought more than \$2 trillion in government bonds and mortgage-backed securities to try to cut long-term rates and lower borrowing costs. The hope behind both actions was to embolden consumers and businesses to borrow and spend more. □

Mutts



6 Chix



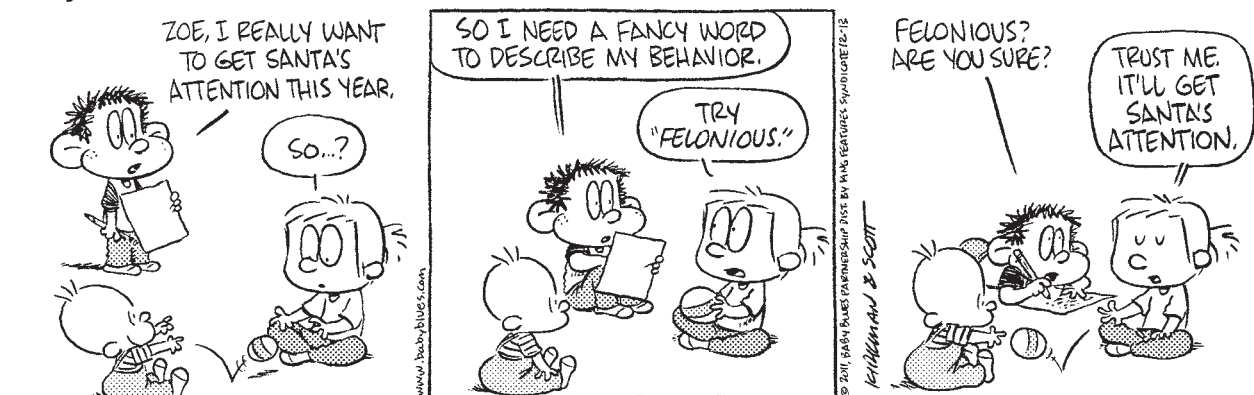
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6			9	8	3
	2	7			1
3	1			5	
		7		8	
9					5
	3		8		
	7			9	8
	1		8		2
4	9	5			1

Difficulty Level ★★

12/13

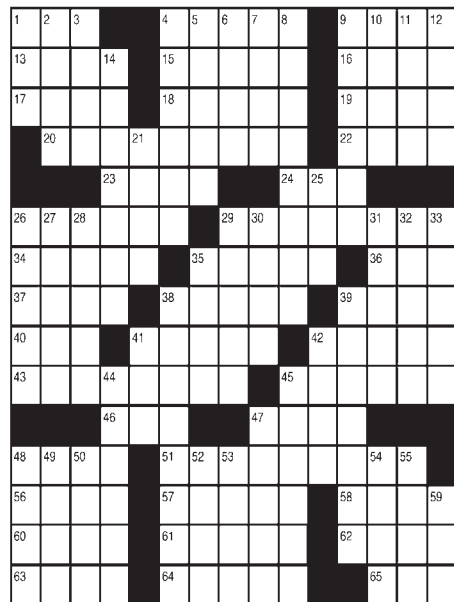
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	1	6	3	7	9	8	5
3	8	9	2	5	1	6	7	4
5	6	7	4	9	8	2	1	3
9	1	5	7	2	4	3	6	8
8	7	4	9	6	3	5	2	1
2	3	6	8	1	5	7	4	9
7	9	8	5	4	2	1	3	6
6	4	3	1	7	9	8	5	2
1	5	2	3	8	6	4	9	7

ACROSS

- By way of
- Valuable item
- Feels sick
- Colored portion of the eye
- Backbone
- Entreaty
- Apple pie à la
- Cuddly looking mammal from China
- Make preparations
- Poverty
- Inquires
- Slimy dirt
- Chum
- Plant pests
- Makes moonshine
- Custard pies
- Narrow boat
- Cushion
- Sharp flavor
- Rouse
- Info on a party invitation
- Elizabeth II's home; abbr.
- Phonies
- Arrange
- Shy
- Brag
- Storm center
- Impoverished
- Michelob or Coors product
- Embittered
- "_ want for Christmas is my two front..."
- Vine-covered
- "_ up; spent
- Bit of land in the ocean
- Gall
- "Penny _"; Beatles song
- Shakespearean king
- Overwhelming desire for more
- Summer blower



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/13/11

Monday's Puzzle Solved

JAMES	GRAB	APES
OMEGA	RIDE	LINE
SILOS	ENDS	LATE
ENLISTED	IRONED	
SOAK	EDITORS	
PISTOL	AGENT	
ASH	NERVY	GEEKS
SLIM	SOAPY	DARE
TEPID	SITAR	SIT
LIBEL	RECESS	
FAMINES	UNDO	
ELATES	OBSCURES	
VIVA	TORO	OPERA
EVEN	IDEA	ALARM
RENT	REST	TERSE

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12/13/11

- Element whose symbol is Fe
- Assistant
- Meat jellies
- Paddle
- Trigonometric function
- "All's well that _ well"
- Piece of silverware
- Horrify; shock
- Misfortunes
- Faucet problem
- Without
- Appearing
- Failures
- Feasted
- Run _; chase
- Cessna or 747
- Boston _ beans
- Small bills
- Discharges
- Range
- _ on; tramples
- Irritate
- Dessert at a birthday party

DOWN

- Robust energy

- Hesitating
- Emotional
- Cook in oil
- Chimney grime
- More uncanny
- Formed a close relationship
- Arrestee's hope
- Otherwise
- Ms. Fitzgerald
- Hardly _; seldom
- Beget children
- Branch of the military; abbr.
- Singer Horne
- Lion's lair

Canada bans burqa at citizenship swearing in

TORONTO (AP) — New Canadian citizens must remove any face coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burqa, while they take the oath of citizenship, the country's immigration minister said Monday.

Jason Kenney said most Canadians find the practice of reciting the oath behind a veil disturbing and said new Canadians should take it in view of their fellow citizens. He said he has received complaints from lawmakers and citizenship judges who say it's difficult to ensure that individuals whose faces are covered are actually reciting the oath. The Conservative minister called the issue a matter of deep principle that goes to the heart of Canada's identity and the country's values of openness and equality. He said women who feel obliged to have their faces covered in public often come from a cultural milieu that treats women as property rather than equal human beings

"I do think that most Canadians find that disquieting to say the least," Kenney said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

"Most Muslim Canadian women I know find the practice of face covering in our society disturbing, indicative of an approach to women that is not consistent with our democratic values," Kenney added. Kenney made the announcement in the French-speaking province of Quebec, which has experienced heated debates over how much Canada should bend to accommodate newcomers. While in the rest of Canada such issues are more often raised by conservatives, in Quebec it's the left-leaning and Parti Quebecois separatists who often discuss it. Kenney said his government would not go further by drafting laws to ban women from wearing veils

that cover their faces in public. France became the first country to enact a law designed to forbid



France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, right, flanked by Hind Ahmas, left, who was attending court to defend her wearing of a face-covering veil, presents her platform at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse in Paris, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals that included capping salaries and devaluing the euro as well as her cause celebre, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public. Now, new Canadian citizens must remove any face coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burqa, while they take the oath of citizenship, the country's immigration minister said Monday.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

face-covering veils such as the niqab or burqa anywhere in public. Violators risk fines or being ordered to take citizenship classes. "We shouldn't have the state using its power to dictate what people choose to wear in their private lives, but when there are important points of intersection with the state in obtaining state services I think it's entirely reasonable for people to show who they are," Kenney said.

There are no laws banning veils or headscarves in the U.S., though there have been unsuccessful attempts in some states to ban "Sharia law." The sponsor of such a bill in Oklahoma wanted to prohibit women from wearing headscarves in driver's license photos.

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2010 banned veils that obscure the face for security reasons, but later changed it to accommodate Muslim women.

The burqa is a head-to-toe gown with a mesh-like panel over the face that allows a woman to see and

breathe. The niqab is a veil that leaves only the eyes exposed. □

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Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Profesional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

Cruise Ship
13 Azura

Aruba Airport	Tel:524-2424
American Airlines	Tel: 582-2700
Avianca	Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles	Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air	Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue	Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana	Tel: 583-7674

Foundation Fellowship Clinic
Tel: 584-6440
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed
Foundation Anti-Droga Aruba
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999
Foundation Respetami
Tel: 582-4433
Diabetic Foundation Arubano
Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989
Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
Tel: 583-5400



La Peregrina, left, a Natural Pearl, Diamond and Ruby necklace by Cartier, and a pair of Natural Pearl and Diamond ear pendants by Bulgari are on display during a preview of the full Collection of Elizabeth Taylor at Christie's, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 in New York. The collection will be up for auction in person and online, a first for Christie's, from Dec. 13-17.

Associated Press

Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry, art up for sale in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — The glittering gems, fabulous clothes, accessories and memorabilia amassed by Elizabeth Taylor are up for sale — but any would-be buyers had better have some deep pockets. Taylor's necklaces, earrings, pendants and rings with diamonds, sapphires and other gems will go on auction at Christie's auction house in New York City starting Tuesday. Among the high-profile items is a diamond bracelet given to the "National Velvet" and "Cleopatra" actress by Michael Jackson, with an estimated sale price of \$30,000 to \$50,000. A 33.19-carat

diamond ring given to her by Richard Burton, whom she married twice, is estimated to sell for \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million.

Taylor, a screen goddess who also starred in classics such as "Giant," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," died in Los Angeles in March at age 79. A jewelry lover, she had pieces from some of the most famous names in the jewelry world, including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Chopard, in her collection. Other sales of Taylor's art, clothing and memorabilia will be held later in the week. □

Barry Manilow hospitalized for hip muscle repair

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barry Manilow has been shaking his hips on stage for decades, and now he has to have those muscles repaired.

A spokeswoman for Manilow says the 68-year-old entertainer was hospitalized Monday for surgery to remove fluid and repair torn muscles in his hips.

Manilow waited until he performed his 1,000th Las Vegas concert and ended his seven-year run at two resorts there before having the surgery.

Publicist Annie Jeeves says Manilow will be in recovery for six weeks before per-



In this June 8, 2011 file photo, musician Barry Manilow poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Associated Press.

forming in Chicago on Feb. 2. □

Meryl Streep covers Vogue magazine for first time

NEW YORK (AP) — Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells Vogue magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level," and told her husband, "It's over." Streep played the editor of the



fictional Vogue-like magazine Runway in the movie "The Devil Wears Prada." She graces the January cover of Vogue magazine for the first time and jokes in the magazine she's the "oldest person" to do so. Next, she plays the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new film "Iron Lady." She'll portray Thatcher from age 49 to 85. The film opens January 13. The January issue of Vogue goes on sale Dec. 20. □

Oprah Winfrey visits Haiti under tight security

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Oprah Winfrey toured an encampment for Haitians displaced by a massive 2010 earthquake under tight security Monday, with a local photographer detained for about 90 minutes as he tried to cover the event.

Winfrey, escorted by security guards, walked among the tents with the actor Sean Penn, who helped create an aid group that provides support to people who live in the encampment. Winfrey said Penn's efforts will be featured in an upcoming program on her Oprah Winfrey Network.

"This is part of the next chapter, going around the world to see interesting and fascinating cases of profound examples of what can be done to make a difference in the world," Winfrey told reporters at the encampment.

Penn said he welcomed the interest of "the world's most elegant woman" and expected it would help Haiti. The camp where his group works was built on a former country club golf course and has been home to thousands of people since the earthquake left much of the Haitian capital in ruins.

"Everybody who has spent time in Haiti knows how im-



Oprah Winfrey, left, stands with actor Sean Penn in a camp for people displaced by the devastating 2010 earthquake in what was once a golf club in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011. Winfrey is visiting the settlement camp run by Penn and his aid group J/P HRO.

Associated Press

portant it is for the world to see what is going on here. ... We really appreciate that she's here with us," Penn said.

Winfrey came to Haiti on Sunday under tight security. Guards and police cleared the airport so journalists could not film her arrival.

Her representatives have not provided any details about her itinerary, though President Michel Martelly said he intended to meet with her.

Security was out in force during her visit with Penn at

the encampment. Photographer Lionel Lafortune, who was among several journalists trying to cover Winfrey, was detained by a guard as he entered the encampment and took photos. An Associated Press journalist saw a private security guard grab Lafortune, who works for the newspaper Haiti Progress, and drag him into a small police station at the camp, where officers demanded that he erase the memory card from his camera and refused to let him leave. □

Lohan says she should have listened to advisers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan says she should have listened to her advisers, but her stubbornness led to many of her well-documented legal problems. Lohan made the comments in the January-February issue of Playboy magazine, which features mostly nude photos and a brief story about the starlet. Pictures leaked online Friday, prompting the magazine to release the issue early on its website. The story refers to Lohan's infamous bad behavior — including two drunken driving arrests, five jail sentences and five rehab stints — as youthful misadventures. Lohan returns to court Wednesday to update a



In this cover image released by Playboy Enterprises, Inc., actress Lindsay Lohan is shown on the cover of the January/February 2012 issue of "Playboy".

Associated Press

judge on her compliance with strict new probation requirements that include working at a morgue. Honolulu police say Lohan reported a bag stolen from a vehicle early Sunday morning. The bag was recovered, but its contents are missing. □



Billy Joel looks is photographed at a piano at the unveiling of his Steinway Hall portrait at the flagship store of Steinway & Sons, in New York, Monday, Dec. 12, 2011.

Associated Press

Billy Joel gets portrait at NYC's Steinway Hall

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Piano Man is now officially a Steinway man.

A Billy Joel portrait has been unveiled in New York City at Steinway Hall, home to the famed piano maker Steinway & Sons.

Joel is one of only two living artists included in a collection featuring greats such as Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. He's the only non-classical performer. The 62-year-old pop leg-

end joked Monday about his painting's proximity to Vladimir Horowitz's, saying he doesn't know "how crazy" Horowitz is about having him that close.

Joel's painting features him standing upright in a leather jacket, with a Steinway in the foreground.

Joel says the jacket was one of the few items of clothing bought without a female companion. He says he wore it for years but his girlfriend recently dismissed it as a 1980s relic. □

Movie audiences shrink below post-Sept. 11 level

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's holidays are off to a dreadful start: Fewer people went to the movies the last two weekends than during the box-office hush that followed the Sept. 11 attacks 10 years ago.

Domestic revenues tumbled to a 2011 low of about \$77 million this weekend, when the star-filled, holiday-themed romance "New Year's Eve" debuted at No. 1 with a weak \$13.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It's the worst weekend in more than three years, since the weekend after the Labor Day holiday in 2008, when revenues amounted to \$67.6 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. And it comes after an \$81 million total a week earlier that had been this year's previous low.

"It's unbelievable how bad it is," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. Jonah Hill's comedy "The Sitter" opened at No. 2 with just \$10 million.

Divided by this year's average ticket price of \$7.96, the combined \$158 million haul means only an estimated 19.8 million people went to the movies the last two weekends. Based on the average ticket price, this year's top-grossing film, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," drew more people all by itself over opening weekend.

The two lowest-grossing back-to-back weekends of the last decade came amid the nation's shock after the 2001 terrorist attacks, when one of the last things on people's minds was catching a film. Revenues those two weekends totaled just \$126 million; divided by 2001's average ticket price of \$5.65, that means 22.3 million people went to the movies those weekends right after Sept. 11 — 2.5 million more than over the last two weekends. A couple of bad weekends



Director and producer Garry Marshall attends the premiere of "New Year's Eve" at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 in New York.

Associated Press

don't make a trend, yet domestic revenues have been lagging throughout 2011, a year in which many studio executives expected to do record business. Revenues this year are at \$9.57 billion, about 4 percent below last year's, according to Hollywood.com. Revenues this past weekend are down 17 percent compared to the same period last year, when business totaled \$91.8 million, led by a \$24 million debut for "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader."

The slowdown the last two weeks followed a quiet Thanksgiving holiday weekend, when new movies failed to pack in the projected droves. "The audience certainly is available. Unfortunately, they have not come out in the numbers they have in the past," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros., which released "New Year's Eve," whose cast includes Sarah Jessica Parker, Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, Ashton Kutcher, Hilary Swank and Jessica Biel. "I'm hoping this is just a glitch, and starting next weekend, the box-office will expand."

Next weekend begins Hollywood's end-of-year blockbuster frenzy, with the debuts of Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" and the family sequel "Alvin and the Chip-

munks: Chipwrecked." Charlize Theron's comic drama "Young Adult" goes wide after starting in limited release this past weekend, while Tom Cruise's "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" launches in huge-screen IMAX theaters before expanding to general release the following week. Studio bosses generally blame bad weekends on bad movies. Yet while critics trashed "New Year's Eve" and "The Sitter," a lineup of well-reviewed, seemingly must-see family films that include "The Muppets," "Arthur Christmas" and "Hugo" so far have done modest business at best. Hollywood always has insisted it offers inexpensive entertainment compared to concerts, sports events and other costlier options. But many moviegoers complain about high ticket prices, particularly the extra few dollars it costs to see 3-D films, and they now have more entertainment alternatives than ever with their portable devices and big-screen home theaters. "I still want to think that our business is product driven, but we're about to find out, because we've got some major films coming," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution at 20th Century Fox, the studio behind "The Sitter" and "Alvin and the Chipmunks." □

Depression and democracy



PAUL KRUGMAN
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It's time to start calling the current situation what it is: a depression. True, it's not a full replay of the Great Depression, but that's cold comfort. Unemployment in both America and Europe remains disastrously high. Leaders and institutions are increasingly discredited. And democratic values are under siege.

On that last point, I am not being alarmist. On the political as on the economic front it's important not to fall into the "not as bad as" trap. High unemployment isn't OK just because it hasn't hit 1933 levels; ominous political trends shouldn't be dismissed just because there's no Hitler in sight.

Let's talk, in particular, about what's happening in Europe – not because all is well with America, but because the gravity of European political developments isn't widely understood.

First of all, the crisis of the euro is killing the European dream. The shared currency, which was supposed to bind nations together, has instead created an atmosphere of bitter acrimony.

Specifically, demands for ever-harsher austerity, with no offsetting effort to foster growth, have done double damage. They have failed as economic policy, worsening unemployment without restoring confidence; a Europe-wide recession now looks likely even if the immediate threat of financial crisis is contained. And they have created immense anger, with many Europeans furious at what is perceived, fairly or unfairly (or actually a bit of both), as a heavy-handed exercise of German power.

Nobody familiar with Europe's history can look at this resurgence of hostility without feeling a shiver. Yet there may be worse things happening.

Right-wing populists are on the rise from Austria, where the Freedom Party (whose leader used to have neo-Nazi connections) runs neck-and-neck in the polls with established parties, to Finland, where the anti-immigrant True Finns party had a strong electoral showing last April. And these are rich countries whose economies have held up fairly well. Matters look even more ominous in the poorer nations of Central and Eastern Europe.

Last month the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development documented a sharp drop in public support for democracy in the

"new EU" countries, the nations that joined the European Union after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Not surprisingly, the loss of faith in democracy has been greatest in the countries that suffered the deepest economic slumps.

And in at least one nation, Hungary, democratic institutions are being undermined as we speak.

One of Hungary's major parties, Jobbik, is a nightmare out of the 1930s: It's anti-Roma (Gypsy), it's anti-Semitic, and it even had a paramilitary arm. But the immediate threat comes from Fidesz, the governing center-right party.

Fidesz won an overwhelming Parliamentary majority last year, at least partly for economic reasons; Hungary isn't on the euro, but it suffered severely because of large-scale borrowing in foreign currencies and also, to be frank, thanks to mismanagement and corruption on the part of the then governing left-liberal parties. Now Fidesz, which rammed through a new Constitution last spring on a party-line vote, seems bent on establishing a permanent hold on power.

The details are complex. Kim Lane Scheppele, who is the director of Princeton's Law and Public Affairs program – and has been following the Hungarian situation closely – tells me that Fidesz is relying on overlapping measures to suppress opposition.

A proposed election law creates gerrymandered districts designed to make it almost impossible for other parties to form a government; judicial independence has been compromised, and the courts packed with party loyalists; state-run media have been converted into party organs, and there's a crackdown on independent media; and a proposed constitutional addendum would effectively criminalize the leading leftist party.

Taken together, all this amounts to the re-establishment of authoritarian rule, under a paper-thin veneer of democracy, in the heart of Europe. And it's a sample of what may happen much more widely if this depression continues.

It's not clear what can be done about Hungary's authoritarian slide.

The U.S. State Department, to its credit, has been very much on the case, but this is essentially a European matter. The EU missed the chance to head off the power grab at the start – in part because the new Constitution was rammed through while Hungary held the Union's rotating presidency. It will be much harder to reverse the slide now. Yet Europe's leaders had better try, or risk losing everything they stand for.

And they also need to rethink their failing economic policies. If they don't, there will be more backsliding on democracy – and the breakup of the euro may be the least of their worries. □



EU MEDICINE

Professor Gingrich vs. Professor Obama



ROSS DOUTHAT
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In 2004, the Democrats were furious at what they considered the fraud to end all frauds: the selling of George W. Bush as a decisive military leader and all-American tough guy. So they nominated John Kerry for the presidency, hoping that having a real combat veteran as their standard-bearer – a bemedaled war hero, no less, who began his convention speech by announcing that he was "reporting for duty" – would finally expose Bush as the tinhorn chicken hawk that liberals believed him to be.

The conventional wisdom holds that Mitt Romney is the John Kerry figure (a Northeastern flip-flopper with good hair) in the 2012 Republican primary field, with his various challengers auditioning to play the more exciting role of Howard Dean.

But Newt Gingrich's recent rise in the polls is being sustained, in part, by a right-wing version of exactly the impulse that led Democrats to nominate Kerry: a desperate desire to somehow beat Barack Obama at his own game, and to explode what conservatives consider the great fantasy of the 2008 campaign – the conceit that Obama possessed an unmatched brilliance and an unprecedented eloquence. This fantasy ran wild four years ago. Obama is "probably the smartest guy ever to become president," the presidential historian Michael Beschloss announced shortly after the November election. The then-candidate's Philadelphia address on race and

Jeremiah Wright was "as great a speech as ever given by a presidential candidate," a group of progressive luminaries declared in *The Nation*. Obama's "Dreams From My Father" is quite possibly "the best-written memoir ever produced by an American politician," *Time* Magazine's Joe Klein declared. "He is not the Word made flesh," Ezra Klein wrote of Obama's rhetoric in *The American Prospect*, "but the triumph of word over flesh, over color, over despair." It's easy to see why this kind of myth-making would infuriate Obama's opponents. And so ever since the 2008 election, the right has embraced a sweeping counternarrative, in which the president's eloquence is a myth and his brilliance a pure invention. Take away his campaign razzle-dazzle and his media cheering section, this argument goes, and what remains is a droning pedant, out of his depth and tongue-tied without a teleprompter. This is where Gingrich comes in. Just as Kerry's candidacy represented an attempt to effectively out-patriot George W. Bush ("You have a war president? We have a war hero!"), the former speaker has skillfully played to the Republican desire for a candidate who can finally outsmart and out-orate Obama. His promise to challenge the president to a series of Lincoln-Douglas debates, in particular, has been deliberately framed as a kind of professor versus professor showdown, in which the president's weaknesses will finally be exposed.

"How does a Columbia-Harvard graduate, who was the editor of the law review ... supposedly the best orator in the Democratic Party," Gingrich asked recently, "how does he look himself in the mirror and say he's afraid to debate a West Georgia College professor?" It's a line that evokes a kind of conservative revenge fantasy, in which the liberal elitists who sneered at George W. Bush's malapropisms and Sarah Palin's

"you betchas" receive their richly deserved comeuppance at the hands of Newton Gingrich, Ph.D. But a fantasy is all it is. The *American Spectator's* Quin Hillyer calls it "the fallacy of the master debater" – the belief that elections turn on dramatic rhetorical confrontations, in which the smarter and better-spoken candidate exposes his rival as a tongue-tied boob.

In reality, Kerry outdebated Bush but did not outpoll him, Al Gore won the 2000 debates on points only to lose them on personality, and Abraham Lincoln lost the Illinois Senate race to Stephen Douglas. When a presidential debate does matter to a campaign's outcome, it's usually a passing one-liner (Ronald Reagan's "there you go again" Walter Mondale's "where's the beef?") rather than a Ciceronian performance that makes the difference. More important for the Republican Party's purposes, it isn't 2008 anymore, and conservatives don't actually need to explode the fantasy of Obama's eloquence and omniscience. The harsh reality of governing has already done that for them. Nobody awaits the president's speeches with panting anticipation these days, or expects him to slay his opponents with the power of his intellect. Obamamania peaked with the inauguration, and it's been ebbing ever since. Newt Gingrich might debate circles around Obama. He might implode spectacularly, making a hot mess of himself while the president keeps his famous cool. But either way, setting up a grand rhetorical showdown seems unlikely to supply a disillusioned country with what it's looking for from Republicans in 2012. Conservatives may want catharsis, but the rest of the public seems to mainly want reassurance. They already know Barack Obama isn't the messiah he was once cracked up to be. What they don't know is whether they can trust anyone else to do better. □

Jazz musicians start a pension push



Paula Aguilar, a tourist, after a show at the Blue Note Jazz Club in the West Village borough of New York, Dec. 8, 2011. Members of the Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians, the city's most powerful musicians' union, began leafleting outside clubs Dec. 8 as part of what union leaders say is a campaign to gain pension benefits and a minimum wage for jazz artists.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

JAMES C. MCKINLEY Jr
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NEW YORK — New York City's musicians' union has begun leafleting outside a major jazz club, the first salvo in what union leaders say is a campaign to gain pension benefits and a minimum wage for jazz artists.

The campaign began quietly Thursday night, when four members of Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians stood in the cold outside the Blue Note in Greenwich Village and handed out leaflets with the headline "Justice for Jazz Artists!" Musicians continued passing out information outside the Blue Note over the weekend and said they would do so again starting Thursday.

"It's just a sin that we have no pension," said Keisha St. Joan, 72, a jazz vocalist who was distributing leaflets. "I will not have a pension before I die."

For five years, club owners have resisted the union's efforts and remain divided about the idea. Some accuse the 8,000-member union of trolling for new revenue to prop up the pen-

sion fund, whose main beneficiaries are mostly retired Broadway musicians, studio session players and classical musicians who are covered by union contracts. Although some jazz artists belong to the union, they generally work in nonunion clubs. Consequently they have for decades received less pay and fewer benefits than unionized musicians. Some club owners also contend that most of the top-tier jazz players they book would rather receive extra pay than union benefits. Others, among them Ron Sturm at the Iridium, say that they favor the idea in principle but that it might be difficult to implement.

Sturm, who has met three times with union leaders to talk over the proposal, said he thought the union should try to reach similar agreements with all music clubs, regardless of genre. "I think it's a great idea philosophically, but the devil's in the details," he said. "How do you do it?"

The owners of the Blue Note, Steve and Danny Bensusan, did not return several messages seeking comment. The disagreement between the union and club owners dates to 2005, when union leaders joined the night clubs to lobby the state Legislature for a reduction

in the sales tax on tickets because the extra revenue would be used to pay for pension and health benefits. In letters supporting the legislation, union officials maintained they had an informal agreement with several club owners to that effect. (A similar trade-off had been made in the 1960s to get pension benefits for Broadway musicians.) The tax break was passed in 2006, but the union never hammered out a formal pact with the club owners. Five years later, none of the clubs have entered negotiations with the union to sign collective bargaining agreements. Those agreements are legally required before the clubs can begin paying into Local 802's pension system.

When the legislation was passed, the union estimated the major jazz clubs each stood to gain about \$67,000 a year from lifting the tax. Some club managers say the plan was flawed from the start. Repealing the tax saved the customers money but never produced extra revenue for the clubs, they say. The owners have balked at raising ticket prices to pay for the pension contributions, although some have suggested collecting dona-

tions from patrons. Lorraine Gordon, the owner of the Village Vanguard, said she supported the idea of pensions for jazz artists but added that profit margins are slim at jazz clubs and costs continue to rise.

"I pay all the traffic will bear in a little club," she said. "My bottom line is what I have to look at, in order to keep the club functioning."

Other club managers also argue that asking them to write a separate check to the pension fund for every musician who steps on their stages each year is impractical and costly. "It would be an accounting nightmare for us," said the programming director for one of the city's major jazz clubs, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he feared reprisals from the union. He said the clubs generally hire band leaders, who in turn employ side musicians. He said the band leaders are independent contractors, and it makes more sense for them to pay into the pension fund on behalf



Musicians hand out leaflets after a show at the Blue Note Jazz Club in the West Village borough of New York.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

of their employees rather than the clubs. Union leaders say the goal of the campaign is to reach bare-bones labor agreements with five of the biggest jazz clubs in New York City — the Blue Note, the Village Vanguard, Birdland, the Jazz Standard and the Iridium — as well as with Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, a venue run by the nonprofit Jazz at Lincoln Center.

John O'Connor, a vice president of the union, said those pacts, if signed, would only mark the beginning. The union also intends to reach similar agreements with clubs in other major cities, creating a network of places that pay pension benefits. That way touring musicians could rack up credit in the pension system no matter where they played. But the key to the union's long-term plans, he said, is convincing prominent clubs in New York to come aboard.

"What we are really trying to do is to expand our house," O'Connor said. □